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# APPENDIX 6: BREEDING BIRD REPORT

Client

**Hargreaves Land**

Project

**Lincolnshire Lakes (North),**

**Scunthorpe**

Date

**January 2025**

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Appendix 6.1: Breeding Bird Survey Results 2023

Rev	Issue Status	Prepared/Date	Approved/Date
-	Issue	MRS / 24.12.24	GP / 02.01.25

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 FPCR Environment and Design Ltd. (FPCR) were commissioned by Hargreaves Land to undertake Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) at Lincolnshire Lakes (North), in Scunthorpe. The application site is located within the eastern plot of the wider Lincolnshire Lakes (North) site (central grid reference SE865095) and hereafter referred to as the Site.
- 1.2 This document is provided as an Appendix to the Ecological Impact Assessment (FPCR, 2025) and completes the ecological assessment for breeding birds.

### Site Context

- 1.3 The wider Lincolnshire Lakes (North) site is located to the west of Scunthorpe and extends to 224.41ha, of which 97.49ha is located to the east of M181 and 126.91ha to the west of M181. The site forms part of the wider Northern Strategy Allocation (Policy SS7-1) whereby 1,275 dwellings are proposed to be allocated.
- 1.4 The application Site is located within the eastern plot of the wider Lincolnshire Lakes (North) site and extends to approximately 65ha (160 acres) of mostly arable land. The Site is relatively flat and currently divided into separate parcels of land through existing hedgerows and ditches. The boundaries of the site are as follows:
- The western boundary is bounded by the M181 / A1077(M) and a roundabout that has recently been constructed with vehicular access provided into the PA#1 site;
  - The southern boundary (with the exception of Plots BG4 and AB3) is bounded by the existing Brumby Common Lane which horizontally dissects the Lincolnshire Lakes (North) site from Scotter Road to the east and a bridge over the M181 to the west;
  - The eastern boundary is bounded by existing open fields with woodland further east and the town of Scunthorpe; and
  - The northern boundary is bounded by existing woodland.
- 1.5 The hybrid planning application proposals include:
- Outline planning application, with all matters reserved, for the development of up to 550 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), a local centre (Use Class E), earthworks and associated 'on-plot' landscaping, drainage and other infrastructure works.
  - Full planning application for the construction of a new vehicular access off the M181 roundabout, a pedestrian and cycle link to Scotter Road, a foul pumping station and 'off-plot' drainage, ecological and associated landscaping and infrastructure works.

### Survey Objectives

- 1.6 The Breeding Bird Survey was carried out between April and July 2023, inclusive. The objectives of the survey were to:
- identify the presence of any designated nature conservation sites that support notable breeding bird assemblages within or in the vicinity of the Site;
  - identify the presence of any notable species/populations of breeding birds within or in the vicinity of the Site;

- identify the presence, species and distribution of breeding birds on the Site;
- evaluate the conservation importance of habitats within the Site to local bird populations and identify any areas of ornithological interest;
- identify appropriate mitigation, compensation and enhancement within the Site; and
- make recommendations to minimise the potential impact of development and where feasible to consider opportunities for additional mitigation, compensation and enhancement where relevant.

## 2.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

### Legislation

- 2.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) is the principal legislation affording protection to UK wild birds. Under this legislation all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to recklessly or intentionally:
- kill, injure or take any wild bird;
  - take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while in use or being built; or
  - take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- 2.2 Additional protection is afforded to species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, whereby intentional disturbance whilst building or occupying a nest or disturbance of dependent young is considered an offence.
- 2.3 Certain species have also been identified as species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 (NERC S.41). The S.41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions
- 2.4 The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Lincolnshire includes action plans for certain species found within the county. Bird species include barn owl *Tyto alba*, grey partridge *Perdix perdix*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava*, skylark *Alauda arvensis*, corn bunting *Emberiza calandra*, linnet *Linaria cannabina*, yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*, reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur*, bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, tree sparrow *Passer montanus*, snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, curlew *Numenius arquata* and redshank *Tringa totanus*.

### Status

- 2.5 In addition to statutory protection, some bird species are classified according to their conservation status, such as their inclusion on the Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) in the UK<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.6 Red list (high conservation concern) meet at least one of the following criteria:

<sup>1</sup> Stanbury, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I. 2021. The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *British Birds* 114: 723-747.

- they are globally threatened according to IUCN criteria;
- their population has declined rapidly (50% or more) in recent years; and /or
- they that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.

2.7 Amber list (medium conservation concern) species are those that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- They have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe;
- Their population or range has declined moderately (between 25% and 49%) in recent years;
- Their population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery;
- They are rare breeders; and /or
- They have internationally important or localised populations.

2.8 Green list (low conservation concern) species fulfil none of the above criteria.

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

#### Desk Study

- 3.1 To compile existing baseline ornithological information, the following statutory and non-statutory organisations were consulted for data regarding designated sites for which birds are a qualifying feature, and protected/notable bird records:
- the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC);
  - Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website<sup>2</sup>; and
  - The Lincolnshire Bird Report 2022<sup>3</sup>.

#### Field Survey

- 3.2 The survey methodology employed was in accordance with the protocol specified in the best practice guidelines – Bird Survey Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Impacts<sup>4</sup>. All birds encountered (seen or heard) were recorded on a field survey plan using standard BTO species codes and symbols for bird activities and to denote activity, sex, and age where appropriate. Breeding status was inferred for each species based on the sixteen categories implemented by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee (EOAC) and their corresponding definitions, in addition to four additional codes to classify non-breeding species as birds recorded away from suitable breeding habitat, summering non-breeders, passage migrants, or flyovers. Birds were considered to be holding a territory and therefore likely to be utilizing the Site for breeding activities if they were displaying breeding behaviours, such as: singing, nest building, food carrying or territorial defence. If birds did not display such behaviours, e.g. they were only recorded flying over the Site, they were considered non-breeders.
- 3.3 To provide a reasonable level of accuracy for determining the population status of the breeding birds on the site, six surveys were undertaken between dawn and 11.00am in April, May, June and July 2023. The detailed surveys undertaken span the season in which the majority of breeding activity occurs for typical species, and no species with vastly differing breeding cycles are reasonably expected to occur at this Site following the consultation results and assessment of the habitats present. Survey effort was reviewed on a rolling basis and throughout returned a basic assemblage of common and widespread birds, with composition and peak counts consistent between survey occasions, such that, given the law of diminishing returns, further survey effort would find significant additional information to change the impact assessment anticipated impacts expected to be minimal based on the widespread retention of suitable breeding habitat for the majority of species recorded.
- 3.4 The surveys included one dusk survey to identify the presence of crepuscular or nocturnal singing species. This survey started within 1hr of sunset and continued till at least one hour after sunset. Thermal imaging scopes were used when low light levels obscured visibility.
- 3.5 A route was mapped out prior to the surveys being undertaken, paying particular attention to any linear features, such as hedgerows and watercourses, and other features such as ponds and scrub. Bird surveys were not undertaken in unfavourable conditions, such as heavy rain or

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<sup>2</sup> [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)

<sup>3</sup> Lincolnshire Bird Club (2023) Lincolnshire Bird Report 2022.

<sup>4</sup> <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org/>

persistent strong wind (conditions which can negatively affect the results). Table 1 provides details of the survey dates and weather conditions.

**Table 1: Survey Dates & Conditions**

Survey	Date	Cloud Cover (%)	Rain	Wind (Beaufort)	Visibility
1	14.04.23	50	0	1	Very Good
2	27.04.23	40	0	1	Very Good
3	15.05.23	10	0	1	Very Good
4	24.05.23 (Dusk)	0	0	1	Excellent
5	08.06.23	100	0	1	Very Good
6	07.07.23	10	0	2	Excellent

## 4.0 RESULTS

### Desk Study

#### Designated Sites

##### Statutory Sites

- 4.1 The Humber Estuary designated site lies in close proximity to the Site. The southern tip of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site extends down the River Trent to within c. 2.1km of the northwestern extent of the Site. Only the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designations extend down the River Trent: the closest part of the Special Protection Area (SPA) boundary is c. 10.9 km to the north. A summary of the justification for these designations are provided in Table 2.
- 4.2 Breeding species listed on the SPA designation are four Annex I species (avocet, bittern, marsh harrier, little tern) and two non-qualifying species of interest (common tern and kingfisher).

**Table 2: Nature Conservation Designations of the Humber Estuary. Breeding bird species are shown in blue font.**

Designation	Justification / Interest Feature
SPA	<p>A high proportion of the total UK population of wintering and breeding bird species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive. These are:</p> <p><i>Avocet <b>Recurvirostra avosetta</b> (W &amp; B)</i></p> <p><i>Bittern <b>Botaurus stellaris</b> (W &amp; B)</i></p> <p>Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> (W)</p> <p>Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (W)</p> <p>Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> (W)</p> <p>Ruff <i>Calidris pugnax</i> (P)</p> <p><i>Marsh harrier <b>Circus aeruginosus</b> (B)</i></p> <p><i>Little tern <b>Sternula albifrons</b> (B)</i></p>
	<p>Supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <p>Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (W)</p> <p>Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> (W &amp; P)</p> <p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> (W &amp; P)</p> <p>Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> (W &amp; P)</p> <p>Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> (W &amp; P)</p>
	<p>The large total numbers of non-breeding waterbirds supported by the estuary: 153,934 (5-year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01) waterbirds including: dark-bellied brent goose, shelduck, wigeon, teal, mallard, pochard, scaup, goldeneye, bittern, oystercatcher, avocet, ringed plover, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, knot, sanderling, dunlin, ruff, black-tailed godwit, bar-tailed godwit, whimbrel, curlew, redshank, greenshank and turnstone.</p>
	<p>Non-qualifying species of interest, in numbers less than European importance i.e. less than 1% of the GB population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-breeding: merlin, peregrine, short-eared owl</li> <li>• <b>Breeding: common tern and kingfisher</b></li> </ul>

Designation	Justification / Interest Feature
SAC	<p>Primarily designated because of the Annex 1 habitats: <i>Estuaries</i> and <i>Mudflats/sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</i>. The estuary also supports a number of other habitats listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive: <i>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</i>, <i>Coastal lagoons</i>, <i>Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand</i>, <i>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima)</i>, <i>Embryonic shifting dunes</i>, <i>"Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")"</i>, <i>"Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")"</i>, <i>Dunes with Hippopha rhamnoides</i></p> <p>Annex II species present include sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>, river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>.</p>
RAMSAR	<p>The Site represents a near-natural estuary with a complex of notable habitats. Populations of grey seal and natterjack toad <i>Epidalea calamita</i> are supported by the estuary.</p> <p>The Humber estuary is also designated for the numbers of wintering bird species it supports.</p> <p>The estuary forms part of the migration route for sea lamprey and river lamprey.</p>
SSSI	<p>Supports a series of nationally important habitats.</p> <p>Nationally important numbers of 22 wintering wildfowl and 9 passage wader species.</p> <p><a href="#">Nationally important breeding bird assemblage of lowland open waters*</a>.</p> <p>Nationally important breeding colony of grey seal, sea lamprey and river lamprey.</p> <p>Nationally important plant and invertebrate assemblages.</p> <p>* The SSSI citation includes '<a href="#">breeding birds of lowland open waters and their margins</a>' as one of the SSSI monitoring features. No specific species are listed on the citation / monitoring forms<sup>8</sup>, however in the 'guidelines for the selection of SSSI'<sup>9</sup>, the following species are listed as present in this habitat type: greylag goose, mute swan, shelduck, gadwall, teal, pintail, garganey, shoveler, pochard, tufted duck, common scoter, red-breasted [sp], bittern, little egret, grey heron, great white egret, spoonbill, little grebe, great crested grebe, Slavonian grebe, marsh harrier, black-necked grebe, white-tailed eagle, osprey, water rail, spotted crake, crane, avocet, little ringed plover, ringed plover, snipe, redshank, wood sandpiper, red-necked [sp], common tern, cuckoo, kingfisher, bearded tit, willow tit, cetti's warbler, grasshopper warbler, Savi's warbler, sedge warbler, marsh warbler, reed warbler, yellow wagtail, grey wagtail and reed bunting.</p>
Key: (W) = wintering, (B) = breeding, (P) = passage	

4.3 The SSSI citation includes 'breeding birds of lowland open waters and their margins' as one of the SSSI monitoring features. No specific species are listed on the citation / monitoring forms, but see the note at the bottom of the Table 2, above.

<sup>8</sup> <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s2000480>

<sup>9</sup> <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/16bd76ad-bb74-4724-9e06-5df02b459524/sssi-guidelines-c17-birds-2023-v1-2.pdf>

### Non-Designated Sites

- 4.4 Six Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are present within 1km of the Site, however none are designated for their ornithological interest.

### **Species Records**

- 4.5 Ninety bird records of thirteen notable species were provided on site, or at a spatial resolution which could include the Site. These records included lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* which is a species associated with the Humber Estuary designated site, albeit not in the breeding season.
- 4.6 A further fifty bird records were provided within 2km of the Site boundary. This included eleven notable species, such as corn bunting *Emberiza calandra* and reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. No qualifying species associated with the Humber Estuary designated site were returned in these records.

### **Field Survey**

- 4.7 A total of 50 bird species were recorded during the 2023 breeding bird surveys (for complete list see Appendix 6.1). Of these, 26 species met the criteria of at least one of the following pieces of legislation / classifications discussed above:
- Schedule 1 of the WCA;
  - Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006;
  - Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan; and /or
  - BoCC Red or Amber Lists.
- 4.8 These 25 species are referred to as 'notable' species and are listed in Table 3 below. None of these notable species were confirmed as breeding on site, but 12 were considered to be probable breeders whilst the remaining species were considered as possible breeders.
- 4.9 Table 3 provides a summary of notable species recorded during the survey and their recent status within the county, whilst Figures 6.1-6.6, shows the approximate locations where they were recorded on Site.
- 4.10 None of the six species breeding bird species listed on the SPA citation were recorded on Site during the breeding bird survey. Three species potentially associated with the SSSI were recorded within the survey area: greylag goose, snipe and reed bunting.

**Table 3: Notable Bird Species Recorded and Their Recent Status in Lincolnshire. Species in blue font are those that are 'species of lowland open waters' (see Table 2).**

Species	Legal / Conservation Status	Peak Count / Number of Survey Occasions Recorded	Recent Status in Lincolnshire
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber List	16/6	Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	Amber List WCA Sch.1 (part II)	14/4	Fairly common but localised feral resident.
Grey partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	Red List NERC S.41	6/6	Common but declining resident
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	Red List	10/2	Very common but declining summer visitor and passage migrant

Species	Legal / Conservation Status	Peak Count / Number of Survey Occasions Recorded	Recent Status in Lincolnshire
Stock dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List	4/2	Common and increasing resident and winter visitor
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	156/6	Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber List	1/2	Very common resident and partial migrant
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red List NERC S.41	8/5	Common but declining breeding species, becoming scarce, and very common passage migrant and winter visitor
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber List	1/1	Scarce breeder, fairly common/common passage migrant and winter visitor
Black-headed gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber List	1/1	Very common resident. Passage migrant and winter visitor.
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber List	4/1	Common resident and passage migrant
Barn owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	Green List WCA Sch.1	1/1	Common and widespread resident with good breeding years coinciding with peaks in vole population.
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber List	3/6	Common resident and passage migrant
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List NERC S.41	26/6	Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
Willow warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber List	3/3	Familiar summer visitor and passage migrant but large decline as a breeding bird
Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber List	19/5	Very common summer visitor and passage migrant
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List	14/5	Abundant resident and partial migrant
Song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Aber List NERC S.41	2/4	Very common resident
Mistle thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red List	1/1	Common resident and partial migrant
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	2/5	A very common resident and partial migrant
Meadow pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber List	2/3	Common/very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	5/4	Common but declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red List NERC S.41	18/4	Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
Lesser redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Red List NERC S.41	6/1	Fairly common but declining passage migrant and winter visitor
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red List NERC S.41	5/6	Very common resident
Reed bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	16/6	Very common resident and passage migrant

## 5.0 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The species assemblage recorded on Site is typical for the rural agricultural, grassland and woodland edge habitat on Site.
- 5.2 The breeding bird assemblage recorded to be using the Site contains 25 notable species along more common and widespread species.
- 5.3 No breeding species listed on the SPA citation were recorded on Site during the breeding bird survey. The Site is not functionally linked to the Humber Estuary SPA.
- 5.4 The Humber Estuary SSSI is located 2.1km from the Site. Three species potentially associated with the SSSI were recorded within the survey area: greylag goose, snipe and reed bunting.
- 5.5 Snipe were recorded in the wider area as opposed to the red line boundary and was only recorded on one survey occasion. This species often breeds in wet grassland habitats ideally with tussocky vegetation for shelter<sup>10</sup>. The habitats within the site and wider survey area are not suitable for nesting snipe and as such it is considered this was likely a non-breeding individual.
- 5.6 Reed bunting were consistently recorded within the site and wider area throughout the breeding bird surveys, indicating they are probable breeders of the Site. The creation of extensive wetland habitat and new hedgerow provision as part of the greenspace and water vole receptor will provide significant areas of alternative habitat for these species.
- 5.7 Greylag goose were predominantly recorded within the wider survey area than the red line boundary and in small foraging flocks or flying over the site. It is largely considered that these birds were not breeding within the Site and were only using the area as a foraging resource. It is considered that the creation of extensive wetland habitat as part of the water vole receptor will provide alternative habitat for this species.
- 5.8 The internal sections of the arable fields were unsuitable breeding habitat for the majority of the bird species present on Site, with the exception of skylark *Alauda arvensis* and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Use by other species such as woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* and corvids was limited to foraging.
- 5.9 The hedgerows, and woodland around the perimeter of the Site and demarcating the arable field compartments hosted several resident and migratory species. Notable species included wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* and greenfinch *Chloris chloris*. In addition, these habitats supported an assemblage common and widespread species comprising common tit, thrush, and finch species alongside low numbers of other species of low conservation concern such as collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto* and carrion crow *Corvus corone*.
- 5.10 The proposals will require the losses of some hedges and ditches to facilitate the development, which will be compensated for with the creation of additional hedgerows and the creation of wetland habitat.
- 5.11 The open grassland and arable habitats are to be lost to facilitate development, and as such will cause the reduction in the availability of nesting habitat for skylark as well as foraging

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<sup>10</sup> <http://snipeconservationalliance.org/snipe-breeding-survey-2019>

habitat for woodpigeon, kestrel and corvid species. The creation of species rich grassland within the greenspace will provide compensation for the loss of existing habitats.

## 6.0 COMPENSATION & MITIGATION

6.1 Measures to compensate and mitigate potential impacts upon breeding birds during construction and operation of the scheme are detailed below.

### Habitat Loss

6.2 The Site will be developed in phases, with the end result being that all arable habitat on site will be lost, alongside partial loss of hedgerows and wet ditches. The loss of breeding habitat will largely be compensated for in connection with the water vole habitat receptor which is to be constructed during late 2025 / early 2026 as well as the greenspace onsite.

6.3 A large water vole receptor is to be built within the north-western parcel of the Site, and will consist of the creation of wetland habitats, consisting of a series of wet ditches alongside a series of raised islands. These islands will consist of gravelled areas and wet grassland mixes and will not include scrub or tree planting in order to ensure open flightlines and reduce predator perches for ground nesting species. The creation of this habitat will continue to provide nesting habitat for skylark whilst also providing additional nesting habitat for lapwing nesting in the area.

6.4 To the south of the water vole receptor a large area of greenspace will be created which will include significant tree and hedgerow planting as well as the creation of large areas of meadow grassland and wet grassland. These areas will provide additional nesting habitat onsite for farmland and generalist species such as yellowhammer, whitethroat and song thrush, whilst also continuing to provide foraging habitat for kestrel, barn owl and insectivorous species such as skylark, swifts and swallow *Hirundo rustica*.

6.5 Tree planting should prioritise the provision of native, fruit and seed-bearing species of local origin to provide an optimal foraging resource for a range of bird species recorded.

### Construction

#### Habitat Clearance

6.6 Construction operations have the potential to disturb birds using the development area of the site for roosting, foraging, and breeding. Operations likely to disturb breeding birds include noise and displacement during vegetation clearance, initial ground works and some construction activities. During the breeding season disturbance may lead to nest desertion or the avoidance of the area, reduction of the suitability of retained nesting areas, such as retained hedgerows, mature trees or scrub.

6.7 To avoid disturbance to breeding birds, ground and vegetation clearance works will be undertaken prior to the bird-breeding season, which runs from March to August, inclusive. If this is not possible, the area will be checked prior to removal of vegetation or ground works by an experienced ecologist. If active nests are found, vegetation will be left untouched and suitably buffered from works until all birds have fledged. Specific advice will be provided prior to undertaking the clearance. This would be a statutory requirement due to the protection of all

nesting birds and their nests under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended). A suitably qualified ecologist would need supervise this.

#### Hydrological Impacts

- 6.8 The series of ditches and drains on site are hydrologically connected to the Humber Estuary SSSI. During construction the scheme has the risk to discharge pollutants into the watercourses. As such it is recommended that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is produced to prevent impacts to the SSSI through hydrology.

#### **Domestic Pets**

- 6.9 Research has shown that domestic cats may impact upon wild bird populations, especially locally, within 100m of each cat's home<sup>11</sup>. However, a precautionary approach is advised, as bird species present on site are very productive and cats are also most likely going after birds that are in poor condition<sup>12</sup>. It is considered likely that areas of suitable bird habitat that are likely to be affected by cat predation would comprise the gardens, hedgerows, scrub and some areas of countryside in the surrounding landscape.
- 6.10 To deter encroachment of domestic cats into sensitive areas and also to provide refuges for birds, it is recommended that the boundaries around the development are strengthened through the planting of native thorny plant species (e.g. blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*).
- 6.11 Additionally, it is considered that the creation of the water vole habitat receptor will allow a safe refuge for nesting birds within the proposed gravelled islands.

### **7.0 GENERAL ENHANCEMENTS**

- 7.1 The extensive areas of green infrastructure and areas of built development have the potential to achieve significant benefits for a range of birds. The planting of more shrubs and trees within the residential area will increase the availability of nesting habitat, whilst continuing to provide – together with retained habitats and species-rich grassland – an abundance of food items contributing positively to breeding success throughout the Site.
- 7.2 As per the NPPF (2024) and in accordance with British Standard BS42021:2021, integrated swift nest boxes will be provided on Site. Under BS42021:2021 all new residential developments should provide new and enhanced opportunities for nesting via the installation of integrated nest boxes with the number of boxes across the whole development to be at least equal to the number of dwellings. These boxes should be installed in clusters of 3-5 on suitable aspects close to open areas with scattered trees and shrubs.
- 7.3 Although targeting swifts, the provision of integral nest sites through hollow chambers fitted into the fabric of a building will also be used by house sparrows, tits and starlings so are considered a 'universal brick'.
- 7.4 External nest boxes are additional enhancements to the BS42021:2021 guidance and do not contribute towards the one-nest-box-per-dwelling requirement. Such enhancements that could be integrated with the on-going management of the Site include the erection of a mixture

<sup>11</sup> Animal Conservation (2020) The small home ranges and large local ecological impacts of pet cats. R. Kays, R. R. Dunn, A. W. Parsons, B. McDonald, T. Perkins, S. A. Powers, L. Shell, J. L. McDonald, H. Cole, H. Kikillus, L. Woods, H. Tindle, P. Roetman.

<sup>12</sup> Pet cats: should they be kept indoors? | BBC Science Focus Magazine

of nest box types where possible. The following provides details of suggested suitable nest box types:

- a) a mixture of small hole (26mm and 32mm) boxes placed along the retained woodlands to the south of the site will provide nesting opportunities for a range of tit species. These boxes generally have a high uptake rate;
- b) small open fronted nest boxes again should be placed throughout the site especially on trees which support a climber such as ivy which provides a degree of concealment. These boxes typically attract robin and blackbird;
- c) consideration should also be given to stock dove nest boxes within the more established boundary habitats including mature tree standards.

7.5 Consideration should subsequently be given to the provision of nest boxes for birds found in built environments, including house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, and house martin *Delichon urbicum*.

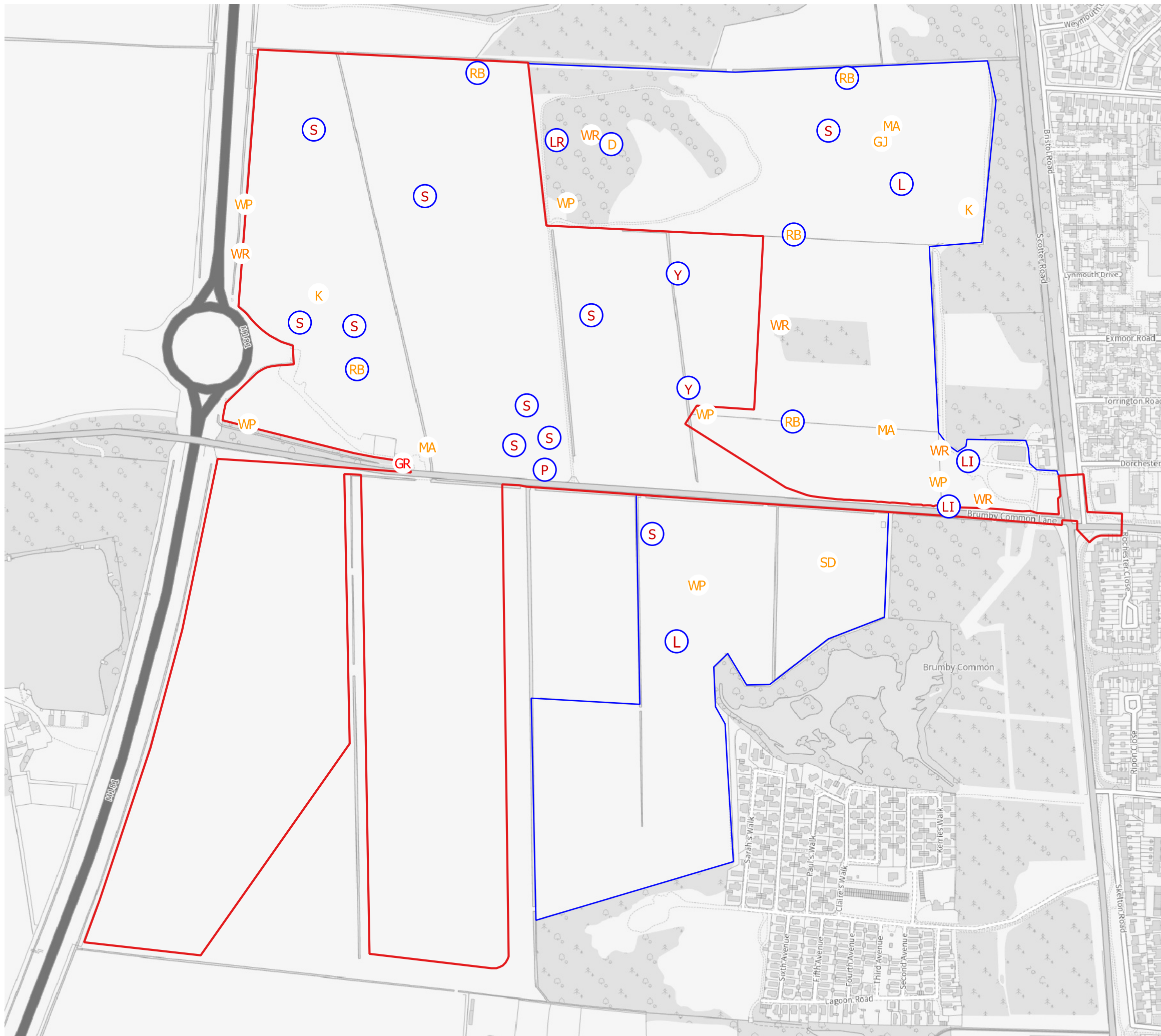
**APPENDIX 6.1: BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS 2023**

<b>Species: British Common Name</b>	<b>Species: Latin name</b>	<b>Survey 1</b>	<b>Survey 2</b>	<b>Survey 3</b>	<b>Survey 4</b>	<b>Survey 5</b>	<b>Survey 6</b>	<b>Conservation Status &amp; Protection</b>
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	4 + 7 Fly over	14 + 1 flyover	5 flyover	4			Amber List WCA Sch.1 (Part II)
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	12 + 8 Fly over	13 + 7 flyover	16	12 + 4 flyover	3	1	Amber List
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				2 flyover			Green List
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	6	6	4	6	2	2	Red List NERC S.41
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	9	7	2	3	5	1	Not Listed
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>						3	Not Listed
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	2					10	Red List
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	3					4	Amber List
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	26 + 13 Fly over	26 + 9 flyover	20	3 + 5 flyover	11 + 4 flyover	156 + 11 flyover	Amber List
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1 M Flyover		1				Amber List
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	4	3	4	2	8		Red List NERC S.41
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		1					Amber List
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			1				Amber List

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Conservation Status & Protection
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		1 flyover	1				Green List
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						4	Amber List
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	3		1			1	Green List
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>				1			Green List WCA Sch.1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>					1		Green List
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2 F, 1 M, 1	1 F, 1 M	1	1 F, 1 + 1 flyover	2 + 1 flyover	3	Amber List
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		1				1	Green List
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	10	6 + 2 flyover	2 + 3 flyover		6	2	Green List
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	2 + 2 Fly over	3 + 1 flyover					Green List
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	2 + 17 Flyover	5 + 10 flyover	5	1 + 3 flyover	4 flyover	4	Green List
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		2					Green List
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	6	2				5	Green List
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	3	5			3	2	Green List
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	24 (2 fighting)	19 + 1 flyover	26	19 + 2 flyover	11	12	Red List NERC S.41

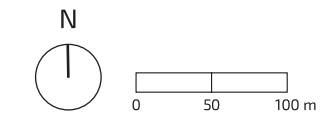
Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Conservation Status & Protection
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		16 + 1 flyover			2 flyover	1	Green List
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	2						Green List
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		3	1		1		Amber List
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	6	3	2		2	1	Green List
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		1	2	1	2	2	Green List
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		5	4	1	6	19	Amber List
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	1						Green List
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	14	9	1		6	2	Amber List
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2		2	1	2	Amber List NERC S.41
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		1					Red List
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	5	7 + 1 flyover	4	4	7 + 1 flyover	6	Green List
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	6	2	3		1, 1 juv		Green List
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	2	1		2	2	Amber List NERC S.41
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		1 flyover	2		1		Amber List

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Conservation Status & Protection
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	11	6	1	2	5	2	Green List
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	3	1			2	5	Red List
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	18 + 2 Fly over	6 flyover			5 + 2 flyover	4	Red List NERC S.41
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	24 + 7 Fly over	5 + 6 flyover	3		1	2	Green List
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	10	1 male					Green List
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	3	5	3	1	2	2	Red List NERC S.41
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	16 + 2M +1F + 2 Fly over	15	9	11 + 5 flyover	9	8	Amber List NERC S.41
<b>Total No. Species</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	



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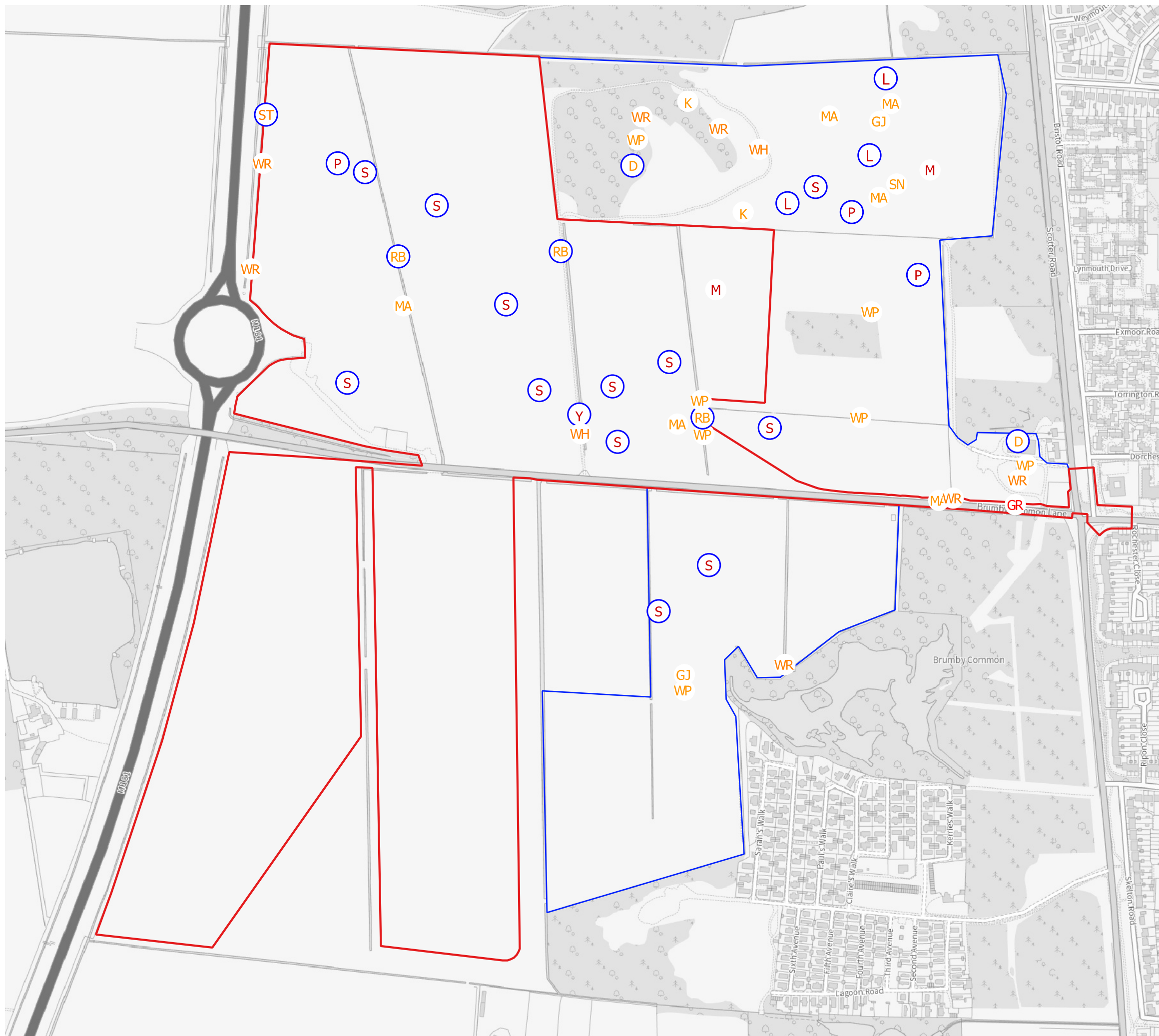
- Red Line Boundary
- Additional Survey Area
- BoCC 5 Red List Species**
- P Grey Partridge
- L Lapwing
- LR Lesser Redpoll
- LI Linnet
- S Skylark
- Y Yellowhammer
- GR Greenfinch
- BoCC 5 Amber List Species**
- D Dunnock
- GJ Greylag Goose
- K Kestrel
- MA Mallard
- RB Reed Bunting
- SD Stock Dove
- WP Woodpigeon
- WR Wren
- Additional Protections**
- NERC Species of Principal Importance

date 17/01/25 drwn/chkd  
MRS/ET

client **Hargreaves Land**  
 project **Lincolnshire Lakes, Scunthorpe**

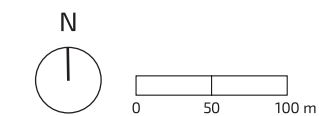
title **BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN - DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES - 14.04.23** scale  
1:5,000 @ A3

number **FIGURE 6.1** rev  
-



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- |                                                                                                                        |                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <span style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> Red Line Boundary       | <b>BoCC 5 Amber List Species</b> |
| <span style="border: 1px solid blue; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> Additional Survey Area | <b>D</b> Dunnock                 |
| <b>BoCC 5 Red List Species</b>                                                                                         | <b>GJ</b> Greylag Goose          |
| <b>P</b> Grey Partridge                                                                                                | <b>K</b> Kestrel                 |
| <b>L</b> Lapwing                                                                                                       | <b>MA</b> Mallard                |
| <b>M</b> Mistle Thrush                                                                                                 | <b>RB</b> Reed Bunting           |
| <b>S</b> Skylark                                                                                                       | <b>SN</b> Snipe                  |
| <b>Y</b> Yellowhammer                                                                                                  | <b>WH</b> Whitethroat            |
| <b>GR</b> Greenfinch                                                                                                   | <b>ST</b> Song Thrush            |
|                                                                                                                        | <b>WP</b> Woodpigeon             |
|                                                                                                                        | <b>WR</b> Wren                   |

**Additional Protections**

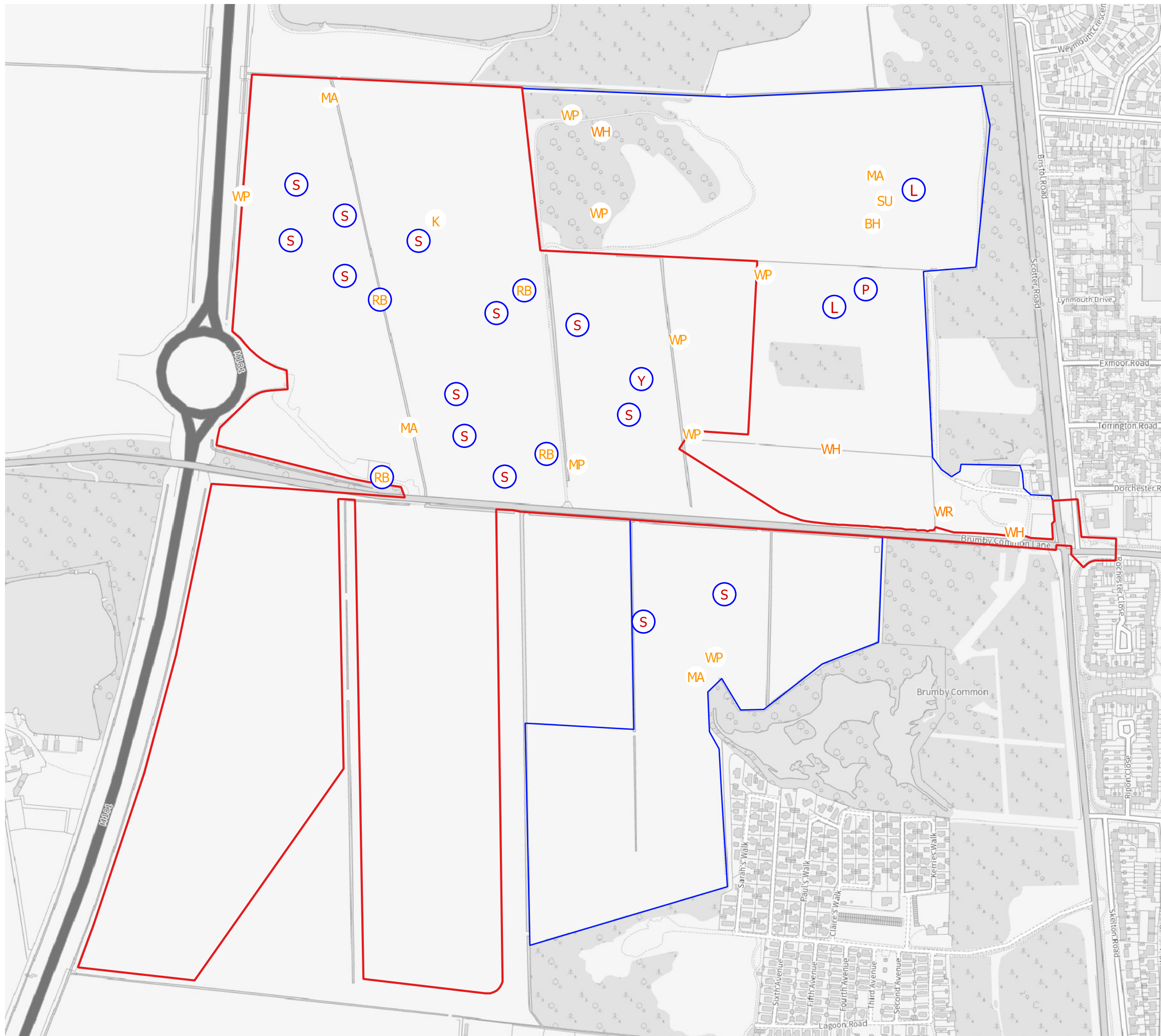
- NERC Species of Principal Importance

date 17/01/25 drwn/chkd  
MRS/ET

client **Hargreaves Land**  
project **Lincolnshire Lakes, Scunthorpe**

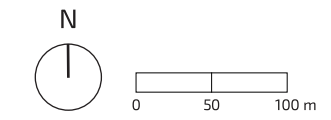
title **BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN - DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES - 27.04.23** scale  
1:5,000 @ A3

number **FIGURE 6.2** rev  
-



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- Red Line Boundary
- Additional Survey Area

**BoCC 5 Red List Species**

- P Grey Partridge
- L Lapwing
- S Skylark
- Y Yellowhammer

**BoCC 5 Amber List Species**

- BH Black-headed Gull
- K Kestrel
- MA Mallard
- MP Meadow Pipit
- RB Reed Bunting
- SU Shelduck
- WH Whitethroat
- WP Woodpigeon
- WR Wren

**Additional Protections**

- S NERC Species of Principal Importance

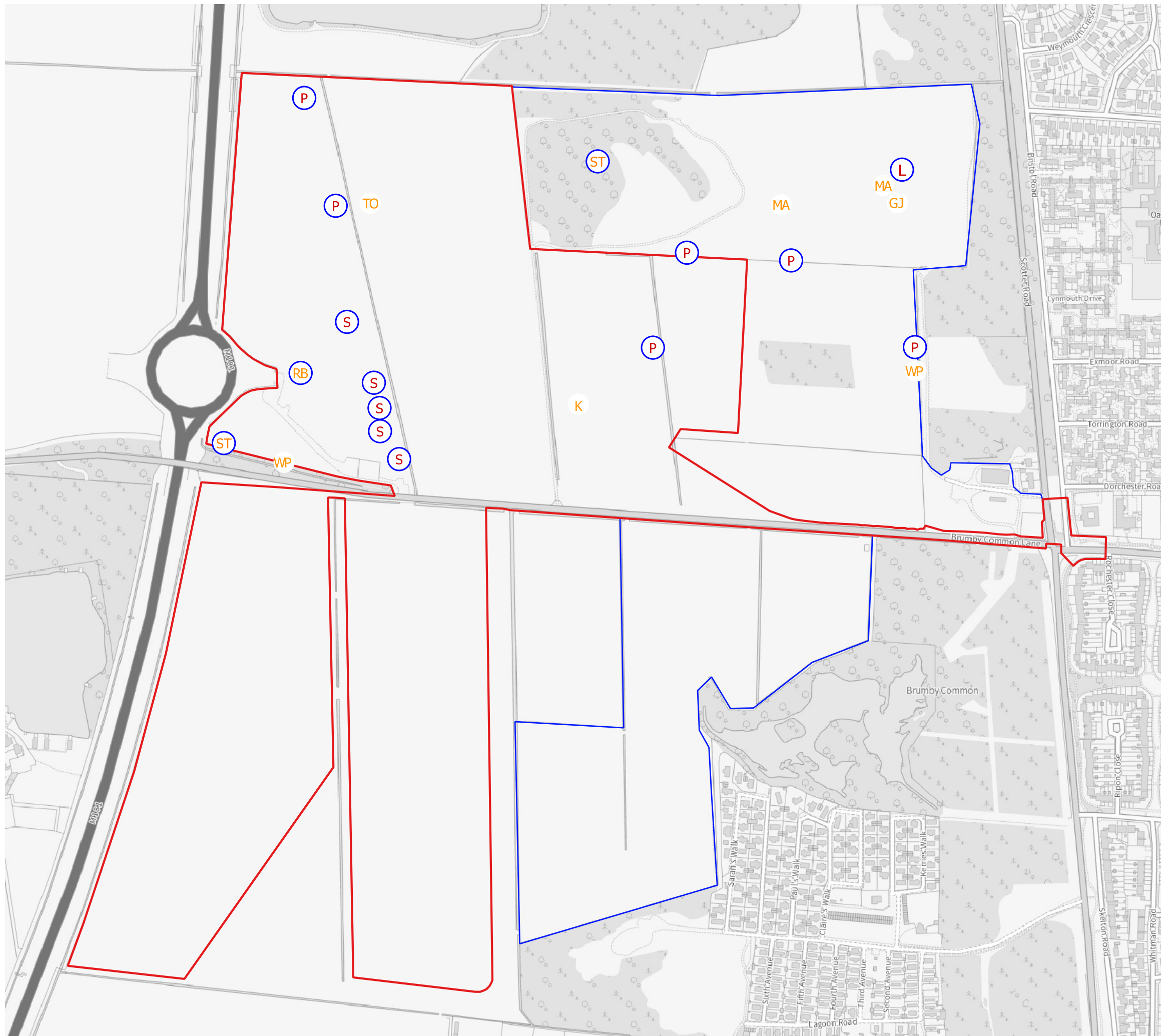
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GP / MRS

client **Hargreaves Land**

project **Lincolnshire Lakes,  
Scunthorpe**

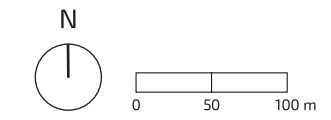
title **BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN -  
DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES - 15.05.23** scale  
1:5,000 @ A3

number **FIGURE 6.3** rev  
-



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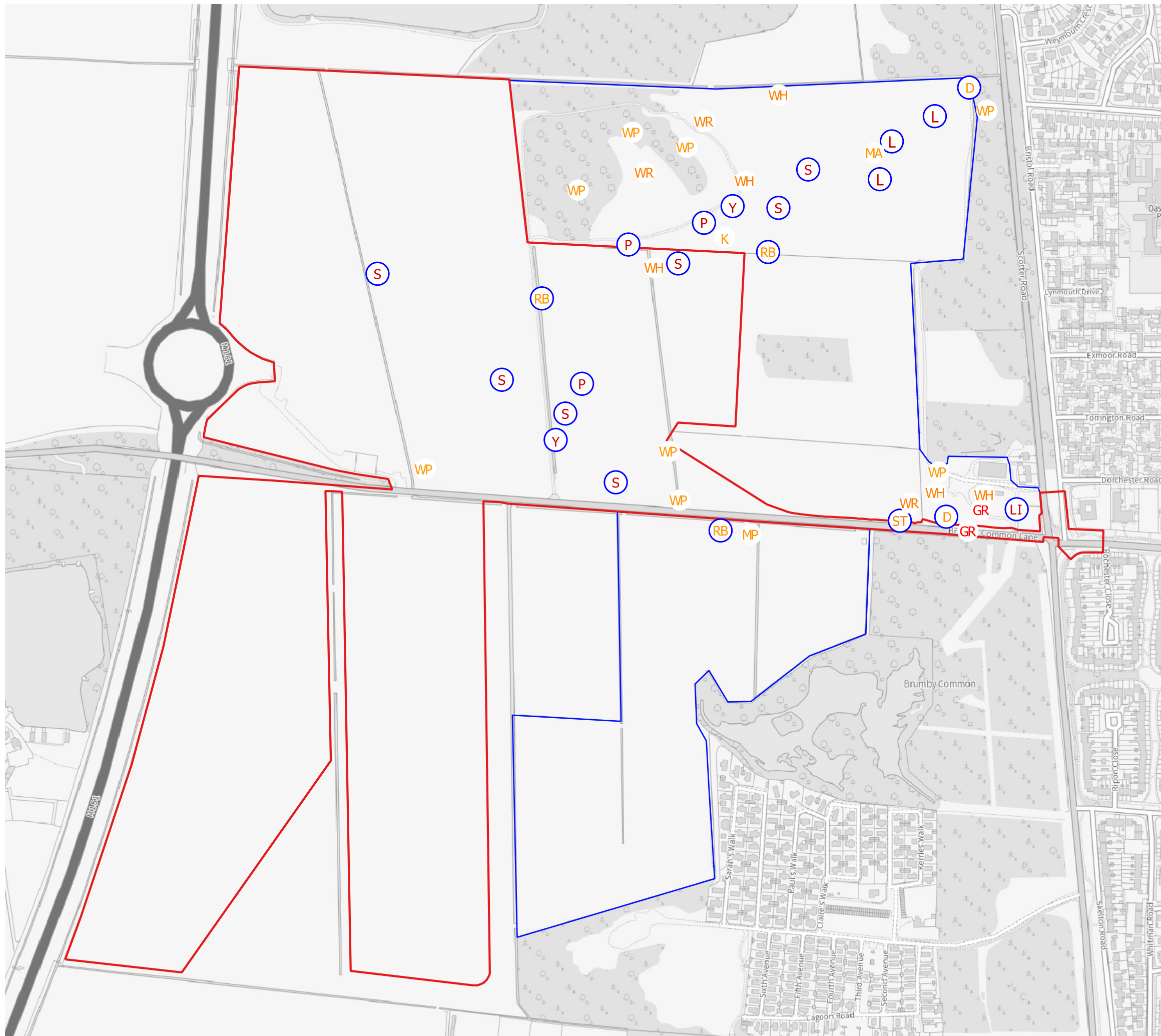
- Red Line Boundary
- Additional Survey Area
- BoCC 5 Red List Species**
- P Grey Partridge
- L Lapwing
- S Skylark
- BoCC 5 Amber List Species**
- GJ Greylag Goose
- K Kestrel
- MA Mallard
- RB Reed Bunting
- TO Tawny Owl
- ST Song Thrush
- WP Woodpigeon
- Additional Protections**
- NERC Species of Principal Importance

date 17/01/25 drwn/chkd  
GP / MRS

client **Hargreaves Land**  
project **Lincolnshire Lakes, Scunthorpe**

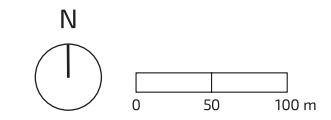
title **BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN - DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES - 24.05.23 (Dusk)** scale  
1:5,000 @ A3

number **FIGURE 6.4** rev  
-



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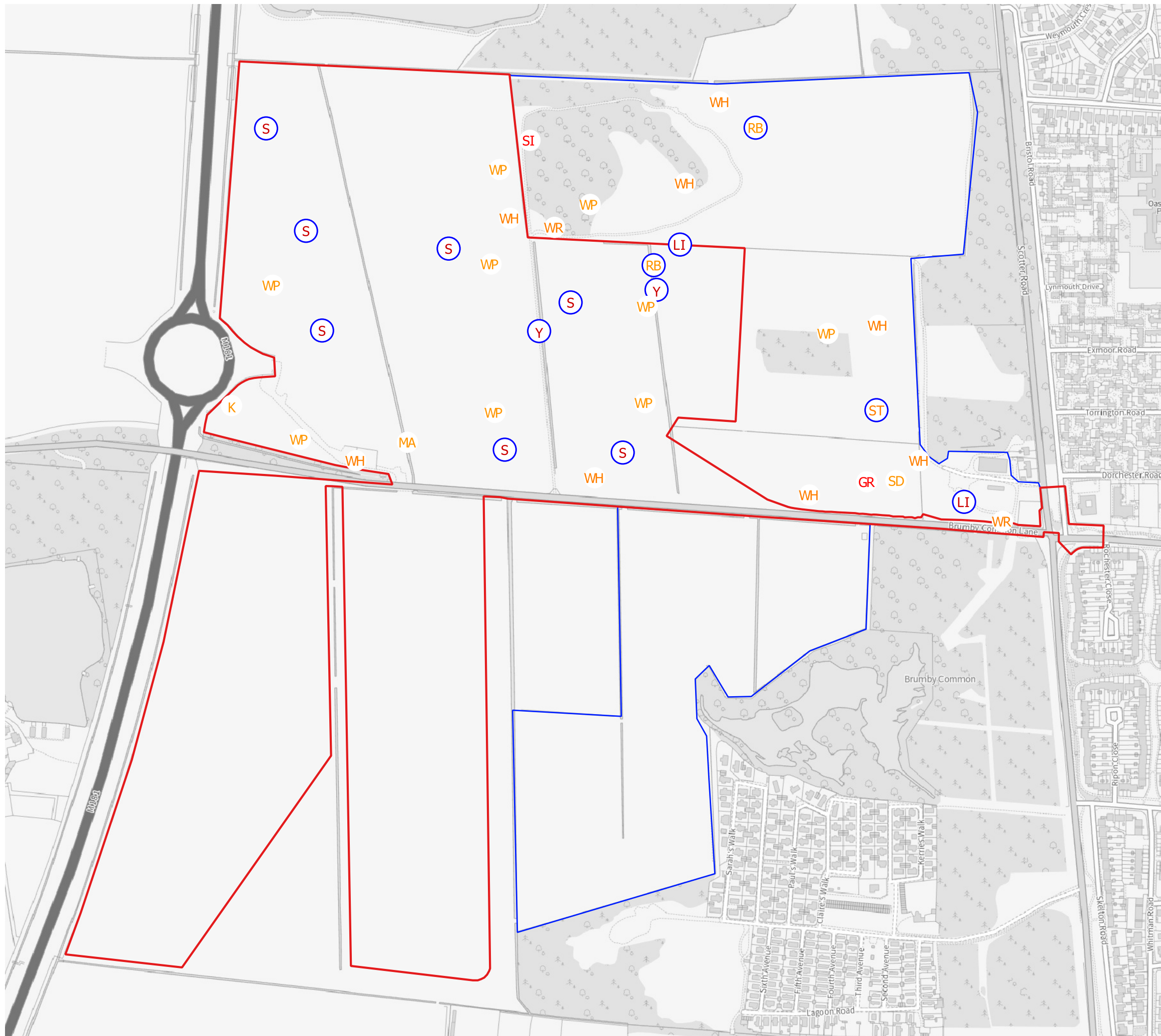
- Red Line Boundary
- Additional Survey Area
- BoCC 5 Red List Species**
- P Grey Partridge
- L Lapwing
- LI Linnet
- S Skylark
- Y Yellowhammer
- GR Greenfinch
- BoCC 5 Amber List Species**
- D Dunnock
- K Kestrel
- MA Mallard
- MP Meadow Pipit
- RB Reed Bunting
- WH Whitethroat
- ST Song Thrush
- WP Woodpigeon
- WR Wren
- Additional Protections**
- NERC Species of Principal Importance

date 17/01/25 drwn/chkd  
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client **Hargreaves Land**  
 project **Lincolnshire Lakes, Scunthorpe**

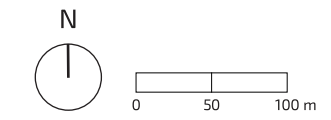
title **BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN - DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES - 08.06.23** scale  
1:5,000 @ A3

number **FIGURE 6.5** rev  
-



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- Red Line Boundary
- Additional Survey Area

**BoCC 5 Red List Species**

- LI Linnet
- S Skylark
- Y Yellowhammer
- GR Greenfinch
- SI Swift

**BoCC 5 Amber List Species**

- K Kestrel
- MA Mallard
- RB Reed Bunting
- SD Stock Dove
- WH Whitethroat
- ST Song Thrush
- WP Woodpigeon
- WR Wren

**Additional Protections**

- NERC Species of Principal Importance

date 17/01/25 drwn/chkd  
GP / MRS

client **Hargreaves Land**

project **Lincolnshire Lakes,  
Scunthorpe**

title **BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN -  
DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES - 07.07.23** scale  
1:5,000 @ A3

number **FIGURE 6.6** rev  
-

**FPCR Environment and Design Ltd**

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