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**BARROW ROAD, BARTON-UPON-  
HUMBER.**

**OS REF: TA 04218 21589.**

**WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS.**

**Ref No: 220776/WinteringBirds2025/Rev1.**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

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|   | Page Number |
|---|-------------|
| <b>1. INTRODUCTION.</b>                     | <b>3</b>    |
| <b>2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.</b>               | <b>4</b>    |
| <b>3. SURVEY RESULTS.</b>                   | <b>6</b>    |
| <b>4. REFERENCES.</b>                       | <b>15</b>   |
| <b>Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION</b> | <b>16</b>   |
| <b>Appendix II. SITE PLAN.</b>              | <b>17</b>   |

# **1. INTRODUCTION.**

1.1. Strata are currently progressing the planning application PA/2023/1607 of which relates to a proposed residential development at land to the south of Barrow Road.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out wintering bird surveys upon the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. Three surveys were carried out each month between October 2024 and March 2025, and this report outlines the findings of each survey and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. It must be noted that in September 2024, the planning application PA/2023/1981 was approved, granting planning permission for the erection of a major roundabout and development of link road infrastructure directly through the site. Natural England did not object to this application.

1.5. It is anticipated that construction works to such infrastructure will commence in May 2025, therefore permanently altering and disturbing the site and its existing landscaping setting.

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## **2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.**

2.1. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

### *2.2. Vantage Point Surveys*

2.2.1. Vantage point (VP) surveys were carried out, broadly following NatureScot ‘amended’ vantage point surveys methodology, as recommended in advice provided by Natural England in their planning consultation response (November 2023).

2.2.2. Vantage points were located at a central high point of the site and was chosen to cover all open arable land within the site boundary.

2.2.3. Two vantage point surveys per month were conducted between October 2024 and March 2025.

2.2.4. The timing of surveys was varied to take in different times of day and were conducted within three hours either side of low tide and high tide respectively. Each survey lasted for three hours, totalling thirty-six hours of vantage point watches.

2.2.5. All of the flight activity was recorded as well as birds landing or taking off within the development boundary. Additional commentary was made on birds landing and taking off from within and out of the development site. All species detected by song, call, or visually were identified to species and their locations recorded on a field-map. The activity of each registration was assigned a behaviour code in accordance with standard BTO methodology.

### *2.3. Nocturnal Surveys*

2.3.1. In addition to vantage point surveys, and due to the potential for waders and/or waterfowl to use the site, nocturnal surveys were also carried out between October 2024 and March 2025.

2.3.2. The surveys were carried out at least one hour after dusk, when no daylight was visible, and each survey lasted until the whole survey area had been thoroughly searched.

2.3.3. All species encountered on the site were recorded. The approximate locations of priority species were plotted on a site map together with behavioural notation where appropriate. Counts of secondary species were recorded separately and based on the highest number of each species in a distinct location.

2.3.4. A thermal imaging camera capable of covering large distances and recording photos/videos was used to assist with nighttime visual identification of species.

2.4. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice, in combination with advice provided by Natural England regarding survey expectations for this site specifically.

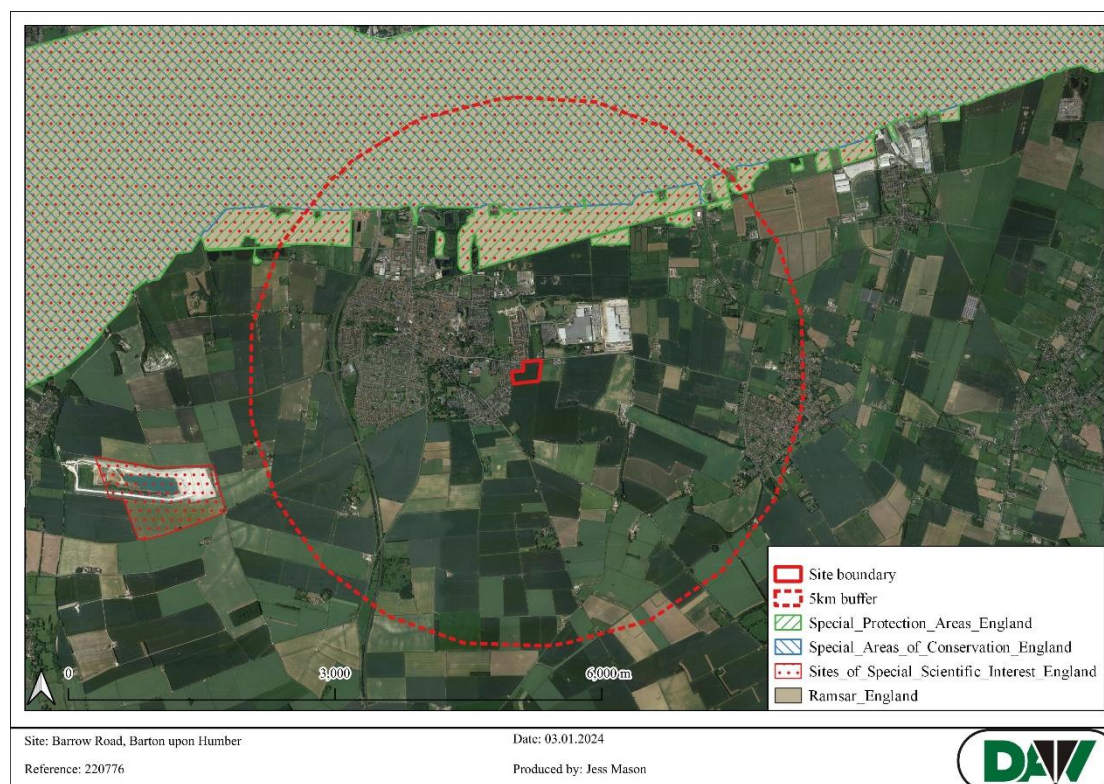
2.5. All surveys were carried out by Jess Mason MSc ACIEEM FRGS. Since 2018 Jess has had experience in a professional capacity as an Ecologist carrying out protected species and habitat surveys. Jess holds Natural England survey licences in respect of bats, barn owls and great crested newts, and a Scottish Natural Heritage survey licence in respect of barn owls. She has also successfully completed a number of courses run by FSC and CIEEM in the relative protected species and carrying out site assessment using vegetation and has a MSc in Biological Recording. Jess is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

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### 3. SURVEY RESULTS.

#### 3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A search of publicly available records shows that the site lies approximately 1.1km to the south of the Humber Estuary SPA, RAMSAR, and SSSI, shown on the map below, which are all designated for bird species.



#### 3.1.2. Humber Estuary SPA

3.1.2.1. The Humber Estuary qualifies under article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:

| Annex I species                          | Count and season               | Period                             | % of GB population |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>     | 59 individuals – wintering     | 5 year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01 | 1.7%               |
| Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>        | 4 individuals – wintering      | 5 year peak mean 1998/99 – 2002/03 | 4.0%               |
| Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>        | 8 individuals – wintering      | 5 year peak mean 1997/98 – 2001/02 | 1.1%               |
| Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> | 30,709 individuals – wintering | 5 year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01 | 12.3%              |

|   |                                  |                                       |       |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Bar-tailed godwit<br><i>Limosa lapponica</i>      | 2,752 individuals –<br>wintering | 5 year peak mean 1996/97 –<br>2000/01 | 4.4%  |
| Ruff <i>Philomachus</i><br><i>pugnax</i>          | 128 individuals –<br>passage     | 5 year peak mean 1996-2000            | 1.4%  |
| Bittern <i>Botaurus</i><br><i>stellaris</i>       | 2 booming males –<br>breeding    | 3 year mean 2000-2002                 | 10.5% |
| Marsh harrier <i>Circus</i><br><i>aeruginosus</i> | 10 females – breeding            | 5 year mean 1998-2002                 | 6.3%  |
| Avocet <i>Recurvirostra</i><br><i>avosetta</i>    | 64 pairs – breeding              | 5 year mean 1998 – 2002               | 8.6%  |
| Little tern <i>Sterna</i><br><i>albifrons</i>     | 51 pairs – breeding              | 5 year mean 1998-2002                 | 2.1%  |

3.1.2.2. The Humber Estuary qualifies under article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by over 20,000 waterbirds (waterbirds as defined by the Ramsar Convention) in any season:

In the non-breeding season, the area regularly supports 153,934 individual waterbirds (five year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01), including dark-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, wigeon *Anas penelope*, teal *Anas crecca*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, pochard *Aythya ferina*, scaup *Aythya marila*, goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, grey plover *P. squatarola*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, knot *Calidris canutus*, sanderling *C. alba*, dunlin *C. alpina*, ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*, bar-tailed godwit *L. lapponica*, whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, curlew *N. arquata*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, greenshank *T. nebularia* and turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

### 3.1.3. Humber Estuary RAMSAR

The following bird species are listed as feature of the designation:

- Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica* – Wintering
- Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa* – Passage
- Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa* – Wintering
- Dunlin, *Calidris alpina* – Passage
- Dunlin, *Calidris alpina* – Wintering
- Golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria* – Passage
- Golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria* – Wintering
- Knot, *Calidris canutus* – Passage
- Knot, *Calidris canutus* – Wintering

- Redshank, *Tringa totanus* – Passage
- Redshank, *Tringa totanus* – Wintering
- Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna* – Wintering
- Waterbird assemblage - Wintering

#### 3.1.4. Humber Estuary SSSI

The following bird species are listed as features of the designation:

Aggregations of non-breeding birds:

- Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta*
- Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica*
- Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris*
- Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*
- Brent goose (dark-bellied), *Branta bernicla bernicla*
- Curlew, *Numenius Arquata*
- Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina*
- Golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
- Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*
- Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*
- Grey plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Knot, *Calidris canutus*
- Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*
- Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus*
- Pochard, *Aythya farina*
- Redshank, *Tringa tetanus*
- Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*
- Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*
- Sanderling, *Calidris alba*
- Scaup, *Aythya marila*
- Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna*
- Teal, *Anas crecca*
- Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*
- Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*
- Wigeon, *Anas penelope*

### **3.2. The Surveyed Area.**

3.2.1. The survey area comprises the section of land to the south of Barrow Road / A1077, shown in the aerial image below.



3.2.2. The survey area is situated within a semi-rural location and was surrounded by a mosaic of arable land, industrial units, and residential estates, with the Humber Estuary 1.1km to the north of the survey area.

### **3.3. Winter bird surveys results.**

3.3.1. The dates, times and weather conditions of the vantage point surveys carried out are summarised in the table below:

| Date     | Start | End   | High/low tide survey | High tide time | Low tide time  | Sunrise/Sunset | Temp at start (°C) | Precipitation | Cloud cover (%) | Visibility | Wind (Beaufort) |
|----------|-------|-------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| 24/10/24 | 10:30 | 13:30 | High                 | 12:21<br>-     | 06:14<br>18:19 | 07:46<br>17:44 | 9                  | None          | 100             | Good       | 2               |
| 31/10/24 | 10:15 | 13:15 | Low                  | 05:24<br>17:48 | 12:23<br>-     | 07:00<br>16:29 | 11                 | None          | 100             | Good       | 3               |
| 07/11/24 | 09:00 | 12:00 | High                 | 09:36<br>21:46 | 03:45<br>15:57 | 07:13<br>16:16 | 10                 | None          | 100             | Good       | 1               |
| 20/11/24 | 09:00 | 12:00 | High                 | 09:06<br>21:07 | 03:32<br>15:32 | 07:38<br>15:56 | 1                  | None          | 30              | Good       | 1-2             |
| 02/12/24 | 11:00 | 14:00 | Low                  | 07:21<br>19:36 | 01:53<br>14:05 | 07:59<br>15:44 | 10                 | None          | 50              | Good       | 2               |
| 19/12/24 | 08:45 | 11:45 | High                 | 09:35<br>21:28 | 03:59<br>15:45 | 08:16<br>15:42 | 5                  | None          | 10              | Good       | 1               |
| 14/01/25 | 10:15 | 13:15 | Low                  | 06:26<br>18:36 | 00:57<br>13:08 | 08:11<br>16:31 | 6                  | None          | 50              | Good       | 2               |
| 28/01/25 | 09:00 | 12:00 | Low                  | 05:27<br>17:40 | 12:00<br>-     | 07:53<br>16:36 | 8                  | Light showers | 100             | Good       | 1               |
| 10/02/25 | 09:00 | 12:00 | Low                  | 04:36<br>16:53 | 11:18<br>23:58 | 07:30<br>17:01 | 5                  | Light rain    | 100             | Good       | 2-3             |
| 24/02/25 | 11:00 | 14:00 | High                 | 03:07<br>15:38 | 09:31<br>21:59 | 07:00<br>17:29 | 11                 | None          | 30              | Good       | 2-3             |

| Date     | Start | End   | High/low tide survey | High tide time | Low tide time  | Sunrise/Sunset | Temp at start (°C) | Precipitation | Cloud cover (%) | Visibility | Wind (Beaufort) |
|----------|-------|-------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| 04/03/25 | 09:00 | 12:00 | High                 | 09:12<br>21:25 | 03:40<br>15:49 | 06:41<br>17:45 | 7                  | None          | 0               | Good       | 1-2             |
| 21/03/25 | 13:00 | 16:00 | Low                  | 10:11<br>22:34 | 04:10<br>16:25 | 06:00<br>18:17 | 14                 | None          | 0               | Good       | 2-3             |

### 3.3.2. *Vantage point surveys*

3.3.2.1. A summary of the peak counts of individual birds recorded during the surveys is provided in the table on the following page.

3.3.2.2. No birds were recorded foraging or roosting within the survey area or immediately adjacent habitats. No qualifying species of the Humber Estuary SPA were recorded within the survey area. Common species of such habitats such a common gull, black-headed gull, corvid species, and woodpigeon were recorded infrequently and at low abundance.

| Species           |                                   | Peak no. of individual birds observed |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Common name       | Latin name                        | 24/10/24                              | 31/10/24 | 07/11/24 | 20/11/24 | 02/12/24 | 19/12/24 | 14/01/25 | 28/01/25 | 10/02/25 | 24/02/25 | 04/03/25 | 21/03/25 |
| Black-headed gull | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | 26                                    | 110**    | 4        | 3        | 5        | 1        | 2        | 2        | 0        | 2        | 1        | 0        |
| Pink-footed goose | <i>Anser brachyrhynchus.</i>      | 24***                                 | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 16***    | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Starling          | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>           | 65                                    | 60       | 25       | 34       | 43       | 6        | 3        | 0        | 3        | 0        | 2        | 0        |
| Woodpigeon        | <i>Columba palumbus</i>           | 12                                    | 0        | 12       | 26       | 17       | 24       | 15       | 22       | 23       | 11       | 17       | 10       |
| Carrion crow      | <i>Corvus corone</i>              | 4                                     | 25**     | 4        | 7        | 16       | 13       | 12       | 2        | 8        | 6        | 2        | 3        |
| Herring gull      | <i>Larus argentatus</i>           | 4                                     | 6        | 2        | 3        | 6        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Kestrel           | <i>Falco tinunculus</i>           | 0                                     | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        |
| Pied wagtail      | <i>Motacilla alba</i>             | 0                                     | 1        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 1        | 0        | 1        |
| Magpie            | <i>Pica pica</i>                  | 2                                     | 0        | 1        | 0        | 1        | 1        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 1        | 2        | 0        |
| Rook              | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>          | 3                                     | 0        | 6        | 0        | 0        | 2        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 4        | 0        | 0        |
| Buzzard           | <i>Buteo buteo</i>                | 0                                     | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        |

**SPA qualifying species or non-qualifying species of interest in bold**

\*\* Tractor and plough present at the start of the survey, fields ploughed on same day. Birds following tractor

\*\*\* Commuting over the site, showing no interaction with the survey area

### 3.3.3. Nocturnal surveys

3.3.3.1. The dates, time and weather conditions of the nocturnal surveys carried out are summarised below:

| Date     | Start | End   | High tide time | Low tide time  | Sunrise/<br>Sunset | Temp at start (°C) | Precipitation | Cloud cover (%) | Visibility | Wind (Beaufort) |
|----------|-------|-------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| 29/10/24 | 19:30 | 20:40 | 04:06<br>16:39 | 11:02<br>23:16 | 06:56<br>16:34     | 13                 | None          | 60              | Good       | 1-2             |
| 14/11/24 | 19:40 | 20:40 | 04:19<br>17:03 | 11:27<br>23:45 | 07:27<br>16:05     | 9                  | None          | 80              | Good       | 1               |
| 11/12/24 | 19:30 | 20:30 | 01:46<br>14:49 | 08:47<br>21:12 | 08:09<br>15:41     | 6                  | None          | 100             | Good       | 1-2             |
| 08/01/25 | 19:30 | 20:30 | 12:56<br>-     | 06:41<br>18:56 | 08:15<br>16:01     | -2                 | None          | 0               | Good       | 0-1             |
| 03/02/25 | 19:30 | 20:30 | 09:40<br>21:41 | 04:02<br>16:05 | 07:43<br>16:47     | 5                  | None          | 0               | Good       | 2               |
| 13/03/25 | 20:30 | 21:30 | 11:58<br>-     | 05:41<br>18:45 | 05:55<br>06:20     | 4                  | None          | 10              | Good       | 1               |

3.3.3.2. The survey area was searched using thermal imaging equipment, scanning the whole field, field margins, and hedgerows. No birds were observed roosting within the survey area during any of the surveys.

### 3.4. Summary of results

3.4.1. Eleven species were recorded during the vantage point surveys, all of which are common species that can typically be expected in arable habitats within this geographical area. These species were recorded in numbers which are not considered notable.

3.4.2. No species listed as qualifying species for the Humber Estuary SPA were observed within the survey area during the vantage point or nocturnal surveys.

3.4.3. Overall, based on the low number of common species recorded, and the absence of SPA qualifying species, it is assessed that the site is not functionally linked to the Humber Estuary SPA.

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|                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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|                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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## **Appendix I. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.**

### *Ecology*

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September. It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees and scrub but others are ground nesting or prefer man-made structures or buildings.

### *Surveys*

Nesting bird surveys search for potential nest sites in vegetation, buildings etc. Potential nesting sites are observed over a suitable period of time for bird movements or calling male birds that would indicate the presence of a nest. The presence of a nest can be identified from the field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself, thereby avoiding any disturbance of the nests. The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

### *Legislation*

Nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Part 1. -(1) Of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - kills, injures or takes any wild bird; takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1. -(5) of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

