

ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT

NORTH KILLINGHOLME, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

**Autumn Passage, Wintering Birds, Spring Passage
& Breeding Birds**

(August 2024 – June 2025)



Waxwings Ornithology

Sunnybank Cottage

Ruston Parva

Driffield

East Yorkshire

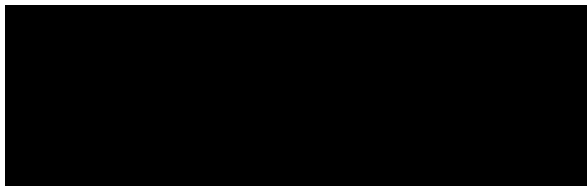
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Waxwings Ornithology
Sunnybank Cottage
Ruston Parva
Driffield
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Completed:

25th June 2025



Client:

OVE ARUP & Partners International Ltd.
Rose Wharf
78 East Street
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On behalf of:

Survey Address:

North Killingholme, North Lincolnshire
Central Grid Reference - approx. TA 1570 1964

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Summary

Waxwings Ornithology was instructed by Ove Arup & Partners International Ltd to undertake diurnal and nocturnal bird surveys on land at North Killingholme, North Lincolnshire during the period August 2024 to June 2025 incorporating autumn passage, winter and spring passage and breeding bird seasons.

The site is approximately one kilometre west of the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA). The red line boundary can be considered in two sections, east and west. The eastern section comprises open rough ground with scattered low vegetation, including spoil heaps, areas of levelled aggregate hardstanding used for vehicle storage and disused roadways, with wet drains and hedgerow boundaries. The western 'L-shaped' section comprises one arable and one grassland field with boundaries of hedgerows, scrub and field drains bordered by Fox Covert and Chase Hill Wood. Most recent development proposals include construction of a carbon capture plant.

Within a 300-500m buffer zone, are further areas of levelled aggregate hardstanding used for vehicle storage, open rough ground and post-industrial land including the old power station site, woodland of Fox Covert and Chase Hill Wood, grassland, arable farmland and areas of marshy ground. Also, two small waterbodies, one (south pool) enclosed by scrub and trees with encroaching reedbed habitat and one (north pool) north of the red line boundary and within the secure port area, fringed with reedbed and trees. Outside the secure port area there is a small wetland area of temporarily flooded wet ground to the north-west. East of the site the area comprises industrial and commercial buildings, areas of hardstanding used for vehicle storage and the Humber Sea Port Terminal.

The primary aim of the surveys was to determine whether habitats within the site red line boundary and adjacent habitats within a 300-500m buffer zone are utilised for foraging or as high tide roosts by SPA bird species and considered functionally linked land and off-site supporting habitat during the autumn passage, winter, spring passage and breeding bird season periods. Surveys were also undertaken to determine the bird species assemblage in these areas. Surveys covered differing tidal states and weather conditions throughout the survey period. In addition, surveys were also undertaken at nearby North Killingholme Haven to provide comparative data for SPA species at a coastal wetland.

Overall, a total of 97 bird species was recorded from all areas including North Killingholme Haven, including Humber Estuary SPA bird species, Schedule 1 protected bird species, red and amber listed bird species of conservation concern, green listed bird species not currently of conservation concern and non-native bird species currently not assessed by BoCC5. A total of 88 bird species (10 Humber SPA qualifying species and 2 non-qualifying species of interest for the SPA) was recorded within the site red line boundary and 300-500m buffer zone on diurnal surveys.

No SPA species were recorded down on site within the red line boundary during diurnal surveys, two SPA species, Mallard and Teal, were recorded down on site on nocturnal surveys. Key SPA species recorded within the buffer zone included Bittern and Marsh Harrier which were recorded as possible and probable breeding species respectively at the south pool. 13 SPA species and five non-qualifying species of interest were recorded at North Killingholme Haven.

Mitigation recommendations should be considered for key SPA species including Bittern and Marsh Harrier, alongside new planting of hedgerows and scrub to create new habitat and enhance existing habitat for other bird species.

Introduction

1. The North Killingholme site is situated north-east of the village of North Killingholme, approximately one kilometre from the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), in North Lincolnshire (Figure 1). Habitat within the eastern section of the site red line boundary comprises areas of open rough ground with scattered low vegetation, including spoil heaps, areas of levelled aggregate hardstanding used for vehicle storage and disused roadways. Several wet drains run along habitat boundaries, bordered in places with hedgerows largely of Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, also fragmented tree-lines, including Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. The western 'L-shaped' section comprises two fields, one arable and one grassland, with boundaries of hedgerows, scrub and wet field drains, this section bordered by the largely broad-leaved woodland of Fox Covert and Chase Hill Wood to the south.

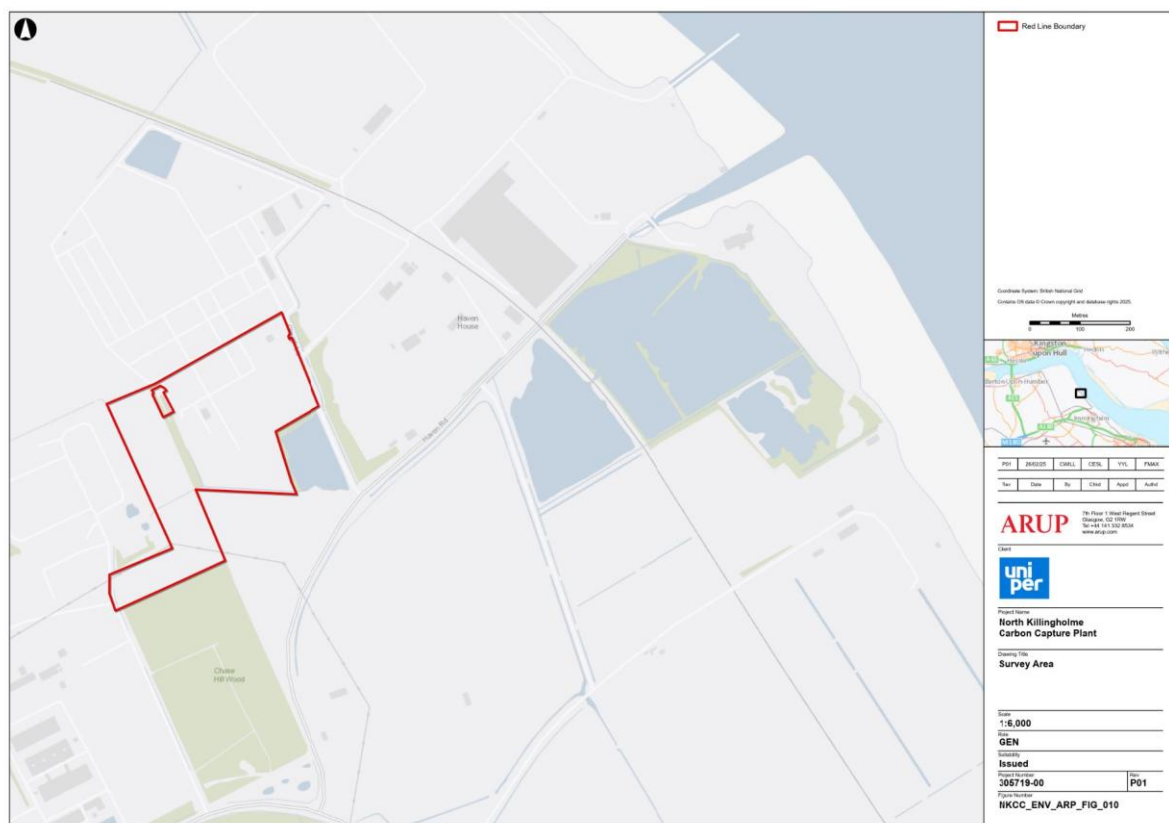


Figure 1. Location of the North Killingholme Site - Survey Area (Site Red Line Boundary)

2. Habitat outside the site red line boundary within a surrounding 300-500m buffer zone includes further areas of levelled aggregate hardstanding used for vehicle storage, open rough ground and post-industrial land including the old power station site, Fox Covert and Chase Hill Wood, grassland, arable farmland and areas of marshy ground. Adjacent to the red line boundary is a small waterbody enclosed by Hawthorn scrub and tree-lines with extensive encroaching Common Reed *Phragmites australis* and Great Reedmace *Typha latifolia* (south pool). North of the red line boundary, within the secure port area, is a second waterbody (north pool) mostly fringed with Common Reed, Great Reedmace and scattered Goat Willow *Salix caprea*. Just outside the secure port area there is a small wetland area (temporarily flooded wet ground) to the north-west. East of the site much of the area comprises industrial and commercial buildings, extensive areas of hardstanding used for vehicle storage and the Humber Sea Port Terminal.
3. Within 400m of the site to the east is North Killingholme Haven Pits reserve (Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust - LWT), comprising four flooded clay pits with controlled water levels, mostly fringed with Common Reed and scrub. The two larger north-eastern pits (c.650m east) form open shallow lagoons with muddy margins and are important for waders and wetland birds, particularly during spring and autumn passage periods.

4. There is no public access within the eastern section, which is enclosed by a secure perimeter fence, and subject to strict security control for the Port of Immingham. A public footpath runs west from Haven Road outside the site boundary and north-west along the eastern edge of the western section, but appears infrequently used. Most recent development proposals include construction of a carbon capture plant.

Methodology

5. An initial scoping survey was undertaken on 31st May 2024 to assess the habitats, within and adjacent to the site, to support bird species during the autumn passage, winter, spring passage and breeding bird season periods, with particular reference to Humber Estuary SPA bird species (Table 3). In addition, a late season preliminary breeding bird survey visit was undertaken on 23rd July 2024 to help inform the bird species assemblage at the site. Information collated from these two survey visits enabled a comprehensive bird survey programme to cover the above-mentioned seasonal periods to be produced.
6. During August 2024 to June 2025, 21 diurnal survey visits, totalling 62 hours survey time, were undertaken to the site, from 15th August 2024 to 9th June 2025 (inclusive). These survey visits incorporated the autumn passage period (19.5 hours), with six visits from 15th August to 24th October 2024 (inclusive), the winter period (21.25 hours), with eight visits from 8th November 2024 to 14th February 2025 (inclusive) and spring passage and the breeding bird season combined (21.25 hours) with seven visits from 20th March to 9th June 2025 (inclusive) (Table 1). In addition to diurnal surveys, ten nocturnal survey visits, totalling 15 hours survey time, were undertaken from 22nd August 2024 to 2nd May 2025 (inclusive) which covered the autumn passage (3 surveys), winter (4 surveys), spring passage and breeding season periods (3 surveys) (Table 1).

Table 1. Diurnal and Nocturnal Survey Visits, Tidal and Weather Data 2024-2025

Visit No.	Survey	Survey Date	HW	m.	LW	m.	SR	SS	Survey Times	Wind	Cloud Cover	Vis.	Temp. °C	Remarks
1	AP	15/08/2024	1458	5.5	0817	2.9	0541	2028	1200-1500	F4SW	8/8	>3km	19-20	Overcast, warm, no rain
N1	AP Nocturnal	22/08/2024	2106	7.4	1500	0.5	0552	2015	2145-2300	F1W	8/8	>3km	16-14	Overcast, warm, light rain
2	AP	28/08/2024	1347	5.7	0718	2.7	0604	1959	0745-1115	F1W	7/8	>3km	17-19	Cloudy, warm, light showers
3	AP	03/09/2024	0657	7.0	1335	1.1	0614	1945	0800-1100	F1SW	8/8	>3km	16-17	Overcast, humid, no rain
N2	AP Nocturnal	18/09/2024	1745	6.7	2342	2.0	0641	1906	1915-2045	F1E	1/8	>3km	14-13	Clear, warm, no rain
4	AP	25/09/2024	1206	5.9	1803	2.9	0653	1851	1100-1400	F2SW	4/8	>3km	12-14	Sunny periods, mild, no rain
5	AP	15/10/2024	0435	6.8	1113	1.3	0729	1803	0730-1130	F2SE	7/8	>3km	10-12	Cloudy, cool, no rain
N3	AP Nocturnal	18/10/2024	1930	7.5	0048	0.2	0733	1757	1800-1930	F2SW	5/8	>3km	12-11	Cloudy, cool, no rain
6	AP	24/10/2024	1153	5.8	1733	3.0	0746	1743	1400-1700	F3SE	2/8	>3km	15-16	Sunny, bright, mild, no rain
7	WBS	07/11/2024	0855	6.2	1504	2.3	0713	1615	0915-1215	F1SE	8/8	>3km	11-12	Overcast, mild, no rain
8	WBS	20/11/2024	0840	6.8	1442	2.0	0737	1556	1415-1645	F2NW	2/8	>3km	1 - 2	Sunny, bright, very cold, no rain
N4	WBS Nocturnal	26/11/2024	1450	5.9	2051	2.7	0747	1549	2030-2200	F2SE	0/8	>3km	1 - 2	Clear, very cold, no rain
9	WBS	09/12/2024	1212	6.0	1759	2.6	0805	1540	1215-1400	F3NE	7/8	>3km	8-7	Cloudy, cold, no rain
N5	WBS Nocturnal	12/12/2024	1521	6.5	2126	2.0	0808	1540	2000-2130	F1SE	6/8	>3km	7-6	Cloudy, mild, no rain
10	WBS	17/12/2024	0700	7.1	1310	1.5	0813	1541	0845-1115	F2SE	8/8	>3km	9-10	Overcast, mild, no rain
11	WBS	08/01/2025	1233	6.0	0610	1.9	0815	1600	1030-1330	F1SE	3/8	>3km	1-2	Sunny, bright, cold, no rain
N6	WBS Nocturnal	21/01/2025	2235	6.1	1623	2.5	0803	1622	1900-2030	F2SE	8/8	>3km	4-3	Overcast, cold, no rain
12	WBS	27/01/2025	1634	6.3	1023	2.2	0755	1633	1230-1530	F5SW	1/8	>3km	7-8	Sunny, bright, mild, no rain
13	WBS	04/02/2025	0956	6.6	1601	1.6	0742	1649	0845-1115	F4SW	2/8	>3km	7-8	Sunny, bright, cool, no rain
N7	WBS Nocturnal	11/02/2025	1723	6.7	2357	1.2	0729	1703	2000-2200	F2E	8/8	>3km	3-2	Overcast, cold, no rain
14	WBS	14/02/2025	0719	6.8	1321	1.5	0723	1708	1215-1515	F2SE	8/8	>3km	5-4	Overcast, cold, no rain
N8	SP Nocturnal	03/03/2025	2016	7.7	1423	0.9	0645	1742	2015-2145	Calm	0/8	>3km	6-5	Clear, cold, no rain
15	SP	20/03/2025	0855	6.4	1507	1.9	0607	1814	0645-0900	F1SE	0/8	>3km	3-8	Sunny, bright, cold, no rain
16	SP/BBS V1/6	21/03/2025	0928	6.0	1542	2.3	0602	1815	0645-1030	F2SE	6/8	>3km	7-11	Sunny periods, mild, no rain
17	SP/BBS V2/6	08/04/2025	0407	5.8	0958	2.8	0618	1949	0645-0930	F1SE	0/8-3/8	>3km	12-15	Sunny, bright, cool/mild, no rain
N9	SP Nocturnal	10/04/2025	1736	6.6	0005	1.2	0614	1952	2215-2345	F1W	0/8	>3km	11-8	Clear, cool, no rain
18	SP/BBS V3/6	17/04/2025	0859	6.7	1518	1.6	0557	2005	0645-0900	F1-2SE	0/8	>3km	7-12	Sunny, bright, cool/mild, no rain
N10	SP Nocturnal	02/05/2025	2224	6.6	1618	1.3	0525	2032	2230-2345	Calm	1/8	>3km	11-10	Clear, mild, no rain
19	SP/BBS V4/6	06/05/2025	1412	5.7	0800	3.3	0517	2039	0630-0945	F1NE	7/8	>3km	11-12	Cloudy, mild, no rain
20	SP/BBS V5/6	28/05/2025	0722	7.2	1350	0.8	0442	2115	0545-0830	F1W	4/8	>3km	14-15	Sunny, bright, warm, no rain
21	SP/BBS V6/6	09/06/2025	0533	6.3	1146	2.0	0433	2128	0615-1045	F2W	5/8	>3km	12-17	Cloudy, sunny intervals, warm

Key - HW = high tide, LW = low tide, m. = metres, SR = sunrise, SS = sunset (Immingham)

AP = autumn passage, WBS = winter bird survey, SP = spring passage, BBS = breeding bird survey

Table 2. Survey Coverage of Tidal States August 2024 – June 2025

Visit	Low Tide			Flood Tide				High Tide			Ebb Tide				Low Tide		
	-1	Low	+1	+2	+3	-3	-2	-1	High	+1	+2	+3	-3	-2	-1	Low	+1
Diurnal Survey Visits																	
1																	
2																	
3																	
4																	
5																	
6																	
7																	
8																	
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Nocturnal Survey Visits																	
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N2																	
N3																	
N4																	
N5																	
N6																	
N7																	
N8																	
N9																	
N10																	

7. Diurnal and nocturnal survey visits during the survey period August 2024 to June 2025 were undertaken during varying tidal stages on the Humber Estuary (Table 2), with a particular focus on the high water period (+/- 2 hours HW), but also covering the low water period and flooding and ebbing tidal stages. Surveys were undertaken covering varying tidal stages to assess potential for the site to support Humber Estuary SPA qualifying wildfowl and wader species (Table 3) during differing tidal stages and also to inform on whether habitats within the site, or adjacent habitats, are utilised by key component SPA bird species as foraging habitat or for high tide roosts. Recording use of the site by SPA qualifying bird species, including frequency, distribution and abundance, will help to inform whether habitat within the site red line boundary and adjacent to the site can be considered functionally linked land and off-site supporting habitat for SPA bird species during the autumn passage, winter, spring passage and breeding bird season periods.

8. Qualifying bird species for which the Humber Estuary SPA has been designated, with their respective seasonal and assemblage importance, are listed in Table 3. The table also includes non-qualifying species of interest which also use the SPA during the breeding and non-breeding seasons. Species conservation status follows Stanbury *et al.* (2021) Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (BoCC5). For further details of BoCC5 see Appendix 5.

Table 3. Humber Estuary SPA Qualifying Bird Species & Conservation Status – Systematic Order

Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) Qualifying Bird Species (Q)		BTO Species Code	Schedule 1 Species	Rare Breeding Birds	UK BAP Species	GB Extinction Risk	European Red List	Annex 1 Species	Scientific Name	Non-breeding (wintering/passage)	Breeding	Waterbird Assemblage	Non-qualifying Species of Interest (b - breeding) (nb - non-breeding)	F
UK Conservation Status (BoCC5)														
Systematic Order follows British Ornithologists Union (BOU 2022)														
1	Brent Goose	BG			UK	LC			<i>Branta bernicla</i>			Q		F
2	Greylag Goose	GJ				LC			<i>Anser anser</i>				NQ (nb)	F
3	Pink-footed Goose	PG	O			LC			<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>				NQ (nb)	F
4	Shelduck	SU				EN			<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Q		Q		F
5	Shoveler	SV		R		LC			<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				NQ (nb)	
6	Wigeon	WN		R		VU			<i>Mareca penelope</i>			Q		F
7	Mallard	MA				VU			<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			Q		F
8	Teal	T.				LC			<i>Anas crecca</i>			Q		F
9	Pochard	PO		R		EN			<i>Aythya ferina</i>			Q		
10	Scaup	SP	1	O	UK	EN	LC		<i>Aythya marila</i>			Q		
11	Goldeneye	GN	P2	R		VU			<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			Q		
12	Crane	AN		R		VU		A1	<i>Grus grus</i>				NQ (nb)	F
13	Oystercatcher	OC				VU			<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			Q		
14	Avocet	AV	1	R		LC		A1	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Q	Q	Q		
15	Lapwing	L.			UK	VU			<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			Q		F
16	Golden Plover	GP				LC		A1	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Q		Q		F
17	Grey Plover	GV				VU			<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			Q		
18	Ringed Plover	RP				VU			<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			Q		
19	Whimbrel	WM	1	R		EN			<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			Q		F
20	Curlew	CU			UK	EN	NT		<i>Numenius arquata</i>			Q		F
21	Bar-tailed Godwit	BA		P		VU		A1	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Q		Q		
22	Black-tailed Godwit	BW	1	R	UK	EN	NT		<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Q		Q		F
23	Turnstone	TT		P		VU			<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			Q		
24	Knot	KN				LC			<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Q		Q		
25	Ruff	RU	1	R		CR	NT	A1	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	Q		Q		F
26	Sanderling	SS		P		LC			<i>Calidris alba</i>			Q		
27	Dunlin	DN				VU			<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Q		Q		F
28	Green Sandpiper	GE	1	R		CR			<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				NQ (nb)	
29	Redshank	RK				VU	VU		<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Q		Q		F
30	Greenshank	GK	1	R		LC			<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			Q		
31	Little Tern	AF	1	R		VU		A1	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		Q			
32	Common Tern	CN				NT		A1	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				NQ (b)	
33	Bittern	BI	1	R	UK	VU		A1	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Q	Q	Q		
34	Little Egret	ET		R		LC			<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				NQ (nb)	F
35	Marsh Harrier	MR	1	R		LC		A1	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		Q			F
36	Hen Harrier	HH	1	R		EN	LC	A1	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Q				F
37	Short-eared Owl	SE		R		EN		A1	<i>Asio flammeus</i>				NQ (nb)	
38	Kingfisher	KF	1			VU	LC	A1	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				NQ (b)	
39	Merlin	ML	1	R		EN	VU	A1	<i>Falco columbarius</i>				NQ (nb)	
40	Peregrine	PE	1	R		LC		A1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				NQ (nb)	

F = species known to use off-site supporting habitat/functionally linked land (FLL) during the non-breeding season

9. Diurnal and nocturnal survey visits incorporated Common Birds Census (CBC) and Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) methodology (Gilbert *et al.* 1998) to record bird species in all habitats within the site and inform on the potential bird species assemblage on site. Survey methodologies used are standard methods appropriate for bird surveys within the

types of habitats present on site, generate robust data for bird species distribution and abundance and are repeatable.

10. Diurnal surveys were completed between 05.45 and 17.00 GMT/BST during varying weather conditions and good visibility. During diurnal surveys, the site was walked and covered to within 50m of every point within the site red line boundary.
11. During diurnal surveys areas within the buffer zone outside the immediate site red line boundary and within the port secure area were covered, including both waterbodies (north and south pools) and areas of hardstanding. Also, habitats outside the port secure area perimeter fence and site red line boundary, including the field immediately south of the site and the small wetland area outside the fence immediately north-west were also checked for bird activity including any aggregations of SPA bird species.
12. In addition, during diurnal survey visits, the two larger north-eastern pits (shallow lagoons) within North Killingholme Haven Pits reserve were checked either prior to, or after, surveys within the site red line boundary, in order to provide a comparison of data for SPA bird species, such as waders and wildfowl, within a coastal wetland habitat.
13. Nocturnal bird surveys were completed between 18.00 and 23.45 GMT/BST during varying weather conditions and good visibility. The site was walked extensively and covered to within 50m of every point of the red line boundary. Both waterbodies (north and south pools) were checked and also areas of hardstanding within the secure port area covered. Habitats outside the port area perimeter fence were also checked for presence of birds.
14. During diurnal surveys, birds were recorded by sight and call using 10x42 binoculars and a tripod mounted telescope with a 32x wide angle lens and a 25x - 60x wide angle zoom lens. Nocturnal surveys were undertaken by two ornithologists using a Pulsar Helion Thermal Imaging Telescope to scan for birds, combined with spotlighting, using binoculars and high-powered torches with a focused beam to scan for birds. Registrations of all bird species observed within the site, overflying and heard calling were entered onto field survey maps using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species and activity codes.
15. No major limitations or constraints were identified with regard to survey methodology for bird surveys, with access to complete survey visits or weather conditions with regard to recording birds. Walkover surveys were used instead of Vantage Point surveys due to site topography, as parts of the site and buffer zone couldn't be viewed clearly from fixed vantage points. This did not reduce the quality of surveys and bird data collated and had no effect on survey results. Access to the secure port area (eastern section) and part of the 300-500m buffer zone, was not possible for the survey on 28th May 2025 and this survey visit was completed observing and checking this area from outside the perimeter fence. Parts of the site within the secure port area had varying numbers of vehicles stored throughout the survey periods, also this part of the site was occasionally disturbed with vehicles and operatives entering and leaving during diurnal surveys. Security vehicles were also on site during nocturnal surveys. In addition, the large spoil heap in the southern part of the eastern section of the site, within the secure port area, was being removed by an excavator during the latter part of 2024 and the late winter to spring period in 2025.
16. The level of diurnal and nocturnal survey effort during August 2024 to June 2025 was considered sufficient to inform on use of habitats within and adjacent to the site red line boundary by bird species, including Humber Estuary SPA bird species, and provided a good representation of the bird species assemblage present during the survey periods.
17. Diurnal and nocturnal survey visits were undertaken by David Pearce, an experienced consultant ornithologist with over 20 years professional experience undertaking ornithological research, bird surveys and monitoring, site and species evaluation and providing advice on mitigation and habitat enhancement for birds throughout the United Kingdom. Chris Bradshaw, an experienced associate ornithologist assisted with nocturnal surveys.

Results – Diurnal Surveys (Site Red Line Boundary & 300-500m Buffer Zone)

Autumn Passage (August - October 2024)

Table 4. Autumn Passage Data, Site Red Line Boundary & 300-500m Buffer Zone

Autumn Passage Aug - Oct 2024		1	2	3	4	5	6	Maximum Count of Birds Recorded Down		Key Habitat Association	
		Autumn Passage									
		AUG	AUG	SEP	SEP	OCT	OCT	Site Red Line	300-500m Buffer		
	Site Red Line & 300-500m Buffer UK Conservation Status (BoCC5)	15-Aug-24	28-Aug-24	03-Sep-24	25-Sep-24	15-Oct-24	24-Oct-24				
1	Curlew				1	35				overflying (commuting)	
2	Mallard		33	21	8	6			33	waterbody (north)	
3	Teal			4	10				10	waterbody (north)	
4	Marsh Harrier					1	1			overflying (commuting)	
5	Little Egret					1				overflying (commuting)	
6	Golden Plover					1				overflying (commuting)	
7	Herring Gull	1	3							overflying (commuting)	
8	Starling	350							350	vegetated rough ground	
9	Yellow Wagtail		5							overflying (commuting)	
10	Greenfinch			1					1	hedgerow	
11	Linnet	4	6	28	2	27	1		28	vegetated rough ground	
12	Pink-footed Goose					103				overflying (commuting)	
13	Pintail				1				1	waterbody (north)	
14	Stock Dove	4			2	1		1	3	vegetated rough ground	
15	Woodpigeon	3	5	5		4	2	3	2	hedgerow	
16	Moorhen		1	1	1	1			1	waterbody (south)	
17	Black-headed Gull		7	4		1			1	waterbody (north)	
18	Common Gull				1					overflying (commuting)	
19	L. B. B. Gull		1							overflying (commuting)	
20	Kestrel	1		1	1	2	1			overflying (hunting)	
21	Willow Warbler	1						1		hedgerow	
22	Sedge Warbler		2	1					2	reedbed (north pool)	
23	Wren	2	2	3	2	3	1	3	2	hedgerow	
24	Wheatear		3						3	vegetated rough ground	
25	Dunnock		4	3	1	4	2	4		hedgerow	
26	Meadow Pipit			54	1	11			54	vegetated rough ground	
27	Reed Bunting				1		2	1	2	reedbed (north & south)	
28	Mute Swan		2	2	3				3	waterbody (north & south)	
29	Grey Heron			2	1				2	waterbody (north)	
30	Buzzard				1					overflying (commuting)	
31	Kingfisher					1			1	wet drain	
32	G. S. Woodpecker		1		1			1	1	trees	
33	Magpie		2	1	3	1	1	1	2	hedgerow	
34	Jackdaw			1						overflying (commuting)	
35	Carrion Crow	3	4	2	3	1	2	2	2	vegetated rough ground	
36	Blue Tit		5		1	2	1	4	1	hedgerow	
37	Great Tit		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	hedgerow	
38	Swallow	3	4	2		1				overflying	
39	Cetti's Warbler		1	1	2	1	1		2	scrub/hedgerow	
40	Long-tailed Tit		2		9	9	5	8	1	hedgerow	
41	Chiffchaff		3	2	4	2		4	1	hedgerow	
42	Blackcap			1				1		hedgerow	
43	Goldcrest		1	1				1	1	hedgerow	
44	Robin		2	3	5	1		4	1	hedgerow	
45	Pied Wagtail			1		3	1	3	1	vegetated rough ground	
46	Chaffinch	3	15	9	2	6		15	1	hedgerow	
47	Brambling					1		1		trees	
48	Goldfinch	32	12	6	2	20	1	28		vegetated rough ground	
49	Pheasant					3		2	1	vegetated rough ground	
Key	Humber SPA Species										

Wintering Birds (November 2024 - February 2025)

Table 5. Wintering Bird Data, Site Red Line Boundary & 300-500m Buffer Zone

Wintering Birds Nov 2024 - Feb 2025 Site Red Line & 300-500m Buffer UK Conservation Status (BoCC5)	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Maximum Count of Birds Recorded Down		Key Habitat Association	
	Winter											
	NOV	NOV	DEC	DEC	JAN	JAN	FEB	FEB	Site Red Line	300-500m Buffer		
	07-Nov-24	20-Nov-24	09-Dec-24	17-Dec-24	08-Jan-25	27-Jan-25	04-Feb-25	14-Feb-25				
1	Lapwing							18			overflying (commuting)	
2	Hen Harrier					1					overflying (commuting)	
3	Greylag Goose					14					overflying (commuting)	
4	Mallard	12	4	37	8	10	22	5		37	small wetland to NW	
5	Teal	10			2	6	12			12	small wetland to NW	
6	Marsh Harrier	1				1	1	3	1		overflying (commuting)	
7	Woodcock		2	1	3	1				2	1	vegetated rough ground
8	Herring Gull				1	4	1		1			overflying (commuting)
9	Skylark							1				overflying (commuting)
10	Starling					7						overflying (commuting)
11	Greenfinch	3									3	hedgerow
12	Linnet	2									2	hedgerow
13	Stock Dove					5	2		3	5		wet/overgrown field
14	Woodpigeon	38	2	9	8	4		10	18	35		hedgerow
15	Moorhen	1				3		1			3	waterbody (south)
16	Black-headed Gull		11			1						overflying (commuting)
17	Common Gull					1						overflying (commuting)
18	Kestrel	2	1		1	1			2			overflying (hunting)
19	Wren	1			1				1		1	hedgerow
20	Song Thrush	2	1			2	1				2	hedgerow
21	Redwing				24							overflying (commuting)
22	Duncock	3	1	2	3	1		1		3	1	hedgerow
23	Meadow Pipit	2									2	small wetland to NW
24	Reed Bunting					1				1		hedgerow
25	Mute Swan		1		3			2			2	waterbody (north)
26	Cormorant	1							1			overflying
27	Buzzard	1										overflying (commuting)
28	Kingfisher	1		2			1				2	waterbody (north)
29	Peregrine							2				overflying (hunting)
30	Magpie	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	4	1	4	hedgerow
31	Jackdaw					4						overflying (commuting)
32	Carrion Crow	2			4	2	1	2	2	3	1	vegetated rough ground
33	Blue Tit					4					4	hedgerow
34	Great Tit	1						1			1	hedgerow
35	Blackbird	1	1		4	5		1		3	3	hedgerow
36	Robin	2	1			3				1	3	hedgerow
37	Stonechat	1									1	small wetland to NW
38	Pied Wagtail	1			1					1	1	vegetated rough ground
39	Chaffinch		2	3	1	15	1	1		12	3	hedgerow
40	Goldfinch	3	1			13	6			13		vegetated rough ground
41	Pheasant	6		1	4	1	5		1	4	4	vegetated rough ground
42	R. L. Partridge								2	2		vegetated rough ground
Key	Humber SPA Species											

Spring Passage & Breeding Birds – SPA Bird Species (March - June 2025)

Table 6. Spring Passage & Breeding Bird Data, Site Red Line Boundary & 300-500m Buffer Zone

Spring Passage & BBS Mar - Jun 2025 Site Red Line & 300-500m Buffer UK Conservation Status (BoCCS)		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Maximum Count of Birds Recorded		Key Habitat Association
		Spring Passage & Breeding Season							Down & Breeding Pairs (prs) or Territories (terr)		
		MAR	MAR	APR	APR	MAY	MAY	JUN	Site Red Line	300-500m Buffer	
1	Lapwing		1	1	2	1		1		2 (1 pr)	small wetland to NW
2	Curlew					1					overflying (commuting)
3	Greylag Goose	3	3	5	1	1				3 (2pr)	waterbody (south)/small wetland to NW
4	Shelduck	4	2	1	2	4	1	9		9	small wetland to NW
5	Mallard	2	4	2	2	6	8	35		35	small wetland to NW/waterbody (north)
6	Teal		6							6	small wetland to NW
7	Oystercatcher					2				2	overflying (commuting)
8	Bittern		1	1						1 male	'booming' reedbed - waterbody (south)
9	Marsh Harrier	2	2	2	2		1	1		2 (1pr)	breeding in reedbed - waterbody (south)
10	Little Egret		1		2		2	3			overflying (commuting)

Spring Passage & Breeding Birds – Red & Amber Listed Species (March - June 2025)

Table 7. Spring Passage & Breeding Bird Data, Site Red Line Boundary & 300-500m Buffer Zone

Spring Passage & BBS Mar - Jun 2025 Site Red Line & 300-500m Buffer UK Conservation Status (BoCCS)		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Maximum Count of Birds Recorded		Key Habitat Association
		Spring Passage & Breeding Season							Down & Breeding Pairs (prs) or Territories (terr)		
		MAR	MAR	APR	APR	MAY	MAY	JUN	Site Red Line	300-500m Buffer	
1	Swift					1		2			overflying (commuting)
2	Cuckoo						1			1 (1pr)	hedgerow
3	Kittiwake		1							1	small wetland to NW
4	Herring Gull							4			overflying (commuting)
5	Skylark		1		1	2	1	2		2 (2 terr)	arable field
6	Grasshopper Warbler						1			1 (1 terr)	small wetland to NW
7	Mistle Thrush						1			1 (1 terr)	woodland (Fox Covert/Chase Hill Wood)
8	Yellow Wagtail							2		2 (1pr)	small wetland to NW
9	Greenfinch				1						overflying (commuting)
10	Linnet	9	40	2	2	2	1	3	40 (2 terr)	3 (2 terr)	hedgerow
11	Yellowhammer	1		3	3	1		2	3 (2 terr)	1 (1 terr)	hedgerow
12	Stock Dove					2		4		4	vegetated rough ground
13	Woodpigeon	8	25	5	6	3	2	6	18 (3 terr)	6 (3 terr)	hedgerow
14	Moorhen	1	3	3	2	1		2	2 (2 terr)	1 (1 terr)	wet drain/waterbody (south)
15	Black-headed Gull	3	3	15	5	2	3	2		15	small wetland to NW
16	L. B. B. Gull				4						overflying (commuting)
17	Sparrowhawk				1						overflying (hunting)
18	Kestrel						2				overflying (hunting)
19	Rook			1							overflying (commuting)
20	Willow Warbler			2	4	4	2	2	2 (2 terr)	3 (3 terr)	hedgerow
21	Sedge Warbler				1	4	4	5		5 (5 terr)	scrub/reedbed
22	Whitethroat				2	1	6	8	3 (3 terr)	3 (3 terr)	hedgerow
23	Wren	1	4	4	3	3	3	5	4 (4 terr)	3 (3 terr)	hedgerow
24	Song Thrush	1			3					2 (1 terr)	hedgerow
25	Black Redstart			1						1	vegetated rough ground (migrant)
26	Wheatear				3					3	vegetated rough ground (migrants)
27	Dunnock	3	3	4	3		2	2	3 (3 terr)	1 (1 terr)	hedgerow
28	Meadow Pipit	1					2			2 (1 pr)	vegetated rough ground
29	Bullfinch					1			1 (1 terr)		hedgerow
30	Reed Bunting	2	3		1	1	4	1	2 (2 terr)	2 (2 terr)	scrub/reedbed

Spring Passage & Breeding Birds – Green Listed & Species Not Assessed by BoCC5 (March – June 2025)

Table 8. Spring Passage & Breeding Bird Data, Site Red Line Boundary & 300-500m Buffer Zone

Spring Passage & BBS Mar - Jun 2025 Site Red Line & 300-500m Buffer UK Conservation Status (BoCC5)		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Maximum Count of Birds Recorded Down & Breeding Pairs (prs) or Territories (terr)		Key Habitat Association
		Spring Passage & Breeding Season							Site Red Line	300-500m Buffer	
		MAR	MAR	APR	APR	MAY	MAY	JUN			
1	Mute Swan	2	4							4	small wetland to NW/waterbody (south)
2	Tufted Duck		3	2	2					3	small wetland to NW
3	Coot			3	1	3		2		3 (2 prs)	small wetland to NW/waterbody (north)
4	Little Grebe				1	1	1	2		2 (1 pr)	small wetland to NW
5	Little Ringed Plover		2	2	2		2	1		4 (2 prs)	open roughground (old power station site)
6	Grey Heron		1				1	2			overflying (commuting)
7	Buzzard		1					1			overflying (commuting)
8	Green Woodpecker		1	1	1			1		1 (1 pr)	woodland (Fox Covert/Chase Hill Wood)
9	Jay				2					2 (1 terr)	woodland (Fox Covert/Chase Hill Wood)
10	Maggpie	1	1	5		1	2	2	3 (2 terr)	2 (1 terr)	hedgerow
11	Jackdaw		3								overflying (commuting)
12	Carrion Crow	1	15	2		2		1	2	11 (1 pair)	arable field/vegetated rough ground
13	Blue Tit	2	4	3	6	1		6	3 (3 terr)	3 (3 terr)	trees/hedgerow
14	Great Tit	4	1	2	1	1			2 (1 terr)	2 (1 terr)	trees/hedgerow
15	Sand Martin				1						overflying (commuting)
16	Swallow					4		2			overflying (commuting)
17	Cetti's Warbler	2	2	3	2	2	3	1	2 (2 males)	1 (male)	scrub/reedbed/hedgerow
18	Long-tailed Tit		1						1 (1 terr)		hedgerow
19	Chiffchaff	3	2	4	6	2	3	7	3 (3 terr)	4 (4 terr)	trees/hedgerow
20	Reed Warbler				3	7	3	6	1 (1 pr)	7 (7 terr)	reedbed
21	Blackcap			1	2	5	3	4	2 (2 terr)	3 (3 terr)	hedgerow
22	Lesser Whitethroat				1	1	3	5	2 (1 terr)	4 (2 terr)	hedgerow
23	Blackbird	1	3	1		1	1	1	1 (1 pr)	2 (2 prs)	hedgerow
24	Robin	7	6	6	4	3	1	1	3 (3 terr)	4 (4 terr)	hedgerow
25	Pied Wagtail	1	2					1		2 (1 pr)	vegetated rough ground
26	Chaffinch	4	6	3	4	3	1	4	2 (1 terr)	3 (3 terr)	hedgerow
27	Goldfinch	2	1	4		2		2	2 (1 pr)	2 (1pr)	hedgerow
28	Canada Goose			2	2		7	7		7 (1 pr+5J)	small wetland to NW
29	Pheasant	3	1		2	1	2	4	1 (1 pr)	3 (3 pr)	vegetated rough ground
30	R. L. Partridge	2				1			2 (1 terr)		vegetated rough ground

18. A total of 88 bird species (10 Humber SPA qualifying species and 2 non-qualifying species of interest for the SPA) was recorded within the site red line boundary and 300-500m buffer zone on diurnal surveys during the autumn passage, winter, spring passage and breeding bird season periods from August 2024 to June 2025 (inclusive). The total included species recorded down within the site red line boundary, those also down within the 300-500m buffer zone and birds overflying in commuting or foraging/hunting flight (Tables 4 - 8).
19. Of the total number of species, 49 bird species were recorded during the **autumn passage period** during August to October 2024 (21 within the site red line boundary, 31 within the 300-500m buffer zone).
20. The 49 species included five Humber SPA qualifying species (none within the site red line boundary, 2 within the 300-500m buffer zone (north pool) and 3 overflying). Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (max. count 33) and Teal *Anas crecca* (max. count 10) were recorded from the north pool and Curlew *Numenius arquata* (max. count 35), Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (max. count 1) and Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (max. count 1) overflying. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (max. count 1), a non-qualifying species of interest for the Humber SPA was also recorded overflying.

21. Of the total number of bird species, 42 bird species were recorded during the **winter period** during November 2024 to February 2025 (14 within the site red line boundary, 22 within the 300-500m buffer zone).
22. The 42 species included five Humber SPA qualifying species (none within the site red line boundary, 2 within the 300-500m buffer zone (small wetland to the north-west of the secure port area fence) and 3 overflying). Mallard (max. count 37) and Teal (max. count 12) were recorded within the small wetland to the north-west of the secure port area fence and Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (max. count 18), Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (max. count 1), and Marsh Harrier (max. count 1) overflying. Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (max. count 14), a non-qualifying species of interest for the Humber SPA was also recorded overflying.
23. Of the total number of bird species, 60 bird species were recorded during the **spring passage period and breeding bird season** during March to June 2025 (27 within the site red line boundary (25 species breeding), 53 within the 300-500m buffer zone).
24. The 60 species included eight Humber SPA qualifying species (none within the site red line boundary, 6 within the 300-500m buffer zone (associating with waterbodies including the north and south pools and the small wetland to the north-west) and 2 overflying).
25. The most important SPA species recorded were Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, with a 'booming' male heard within the reedbed of the south pool early morning on 21st March and 8th April, and Marsh Harrier, a pair nest-building and breeding within the same reedbed of the south pool during surveys from March to June 2025 inclusive. Lapwing (1 pair), Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (max. count 9) and Teal (max. count 6) were recorded from the small wetland, with Mallard (max. count 35) recorded there and from the north pool. Curlew (max. count 1) and Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (max. count 2) were recorded overflying. Non-qualifying species of interest for the Humber SPA included Greylag Goose (2 pairs - south pool/small wetland) and Little Egret (max. count 1) recorded overflying.
26. Key bird species listed on Schedule One of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981 as amended) and recorded associating with habitats within the site red line boundary and 300-500m buffer zone included, Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*.
27. Cetti's Warbler (2 males/breeding territories) was recorded breeding within the site red line boundary, within linear scrub and hedgerow habitat along the site boundaries.
28. Bittern and Marsh Harrier were present in the reedbed surrounding the south pool, within a few metres of the site red line boundary, with Marsh Harrier hunting over adjacent fields and farmland habitat within the 300-500m buffer zone. Little Ringed Plover (2 pairs) was recorded displaying over the 300-500m buffer zone and was also present on the old power station site south-west of the site red line boundary. Up to two Kingfishers were present on the north pool and the wet drain along the secure port area boundary within the 300-500m buffer zone.
29. Key red and amber listed bird species of conservation concern listed in Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (BoCC5) (Stanbury *et al.* 2021) and recorded breeding within the site red line boundary and 300-500m buffer zone are listed in Table 7. No ground nesting red and amber listed species were recorded breeding within the site red line boundary. Ground nesting species recorded within the 300-500m buffer zone included, Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (red listed, 2 territories – arable farmland), Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (red listed, 1 pair – small wetland) and Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* (amber listed, 1 pair – vegetated rough ground).
30. Other red and amber listed species were mostly recorded associating with boundary hedgerows, scrub, reedbed and woodland within the red line boundary and buffer zone. These included, red listed species such as Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* (summer migrant) Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* (summer migrant), Mistle Thrush *Turdus*

viscivorus, Linnet *Linaria cannabina* and Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* and amber listed summer migrant warbler species such as, Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*, Whitethroat *Curruca communis* and Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* and also Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

31. Green listed species, not currently considered of conservation concern, recorded breeding within the site red line boundary and 300-500m buffer zone are listed in Table 8. These species, including summer migrant warblers such as Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* and Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*, were mostly recorded at low density associating with hedgerows, tree-lines, scrub, reedbed and woodland habitat.
32. Non-native bird species currently not assessed by BoCC5 and recorded breeding within the site red line boundary and 300-500m buffer zone are listed in Table 8. These species were associated with vegetated rough ground (Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* and Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*) and also the small wetland outside the port secure area (Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*).

Results – Diurnal Surveys (North Killingholme Haven)

Table 9. Killingholme Haven SPA Bird Species Data, August 2024 - June 2025

SPA Bird Species	Non-breeding	Breeding	Assemblage	Non-qualifying	FLL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
						Autumn Passage						Winter						Spring Passage & Breeding Season								
						AUG	AUG	SEP	SEP	OCT	OCT	NOV	NOV	DEC	DEC	JAN	JAN	FEB	FEB	MAR	MAR	APR	APR	MAY	MAY	JUN
						15-Aug-24	28-Aug-24	03-Sep-24	25-Sep-24	15-Oct-24	24-Oct-24	07-Nov-24	20-Nov-24	09-Dec-24	17-Dec-24	08-Jan-25	27-Jan-25	04-Feb-25	14-Feb-25	20-Mar-25	21-Mar-25	08-Apr-25	17-Apr-25	06-May-25	28-May-25	09-Jun-25
1 Lapwing						3	15	2	8	380	560	1050			2512	1		126	1100						1	
2 Curlew						1	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	3			1		2	4	3				
3 Black-tailed Godwit						3000	5000	3500	4500	10	3	2								8	47					
4 Ruff						1	2																			
5 Dunlin											10	75	2		18		1									
6 Greylag Goose				nb																					7	
7 Shelduck									1				2						3	8	2	11	25	2	9	
8 Shoveler				nb														15	8		3	3				
9 Mallard							6									6	2		2					2	2	1
10 Teal								14	29	26	24	3		19				22	7	25	38	23				
11 Oystercatcher																					1	5			1	
12 Avocet						3	220	83	350	420	56	237	131	4	1	2				20	15	38			7	
13 Green Sandpiper				nb								1														
14 Redshank						200	120	14	40	75	63	110	53	3	75	4	95	106	27	75	118	45				
15 Greenshank							1																			
16 Turnstone							3																			
17 Little Egret				nb		6	6	5	2	1	1	1			1					1						
18 Kingfisher				b								2														
Humber Estuary SPA Qualifying Species						7	9	7	7	8	8	10	6	3	7	3	3	4	4	7	8	8	2	2	5	2
Non-Breeding (wintering/passage)						4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	2	4	4	1	1	2	1
Breeding						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
Waterbird Assemblage						6	8	6	6	7	7	7	6	3	6	3	3	5	3	6	7	7	2	1	5	2
Non-Qualifying Species of Interest						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Species Using FLL - Non-Breeding Season						6	6	6	6	7	7	7	5	2	6	2	3	5	3	6	5	5	2	1	3	2

33. Bird data for North Killingholme Haven are presented in Table 9 and include 18 Humber SPA bird species (13 qualifying species and 5 non-qualifying species of interest), with 11 species of wader, five species of wildfowl and two other wetland bird species recorded.
34. Overall, the most important SPA bird species recorded from North Killingholme Haven were waders. The key species was Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (red listed), with estimates ranging from 3,000-5,000 birds present during the autumn passage period in August and September 2024, up to 10 in October and the last record of two on 7th November 2024. Most winter in West Africa and returning birds appeared in late March 2025 (8 on 21st March) and a peak of 47 on 8th April. Lapwing was present in greater numbers from mid- October 2024 to mid- February 2025, with a maximum winter count of

2,512 birds on 17th December. Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* was present from mid-August 2024 to early January 2025 with a maximum count of 420 on 15th October. Returning birds were recorded from late March 2025 with a peak count of 47 on 8th April. Redshank *Tringa totanus* was recorded throughout most of the survey period, maxima of 200 on 15th August 2024 during the autumn passage period, 110 on 7th November 2024 during the winter period and 118 on 21st March 2025 during the spring passage period.

35. Key SPA wildfowl species included, Teal (max. count 38 – 21st March 2025), Shelduck (max. count 25 – 6th May 2025) and Mallard (max. count 6 – 3rd September 2024, 27th January 2025). Non-qualifying SPA species of interest included Greylag Goose (max. count 7 – 6th May 2025) and Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (max. count 15 – 4th February 2025). Other waterbird species recorded included, Little Egret (max. count 6 – 15th and 28th August 2024 and Kingfisher, two on 7th November 2024.

Results – Nocturnal Surveys

Table 10. Site Red Line Boundary & 300-500m Buffer Zone, August 2024 - May 2025

Nocturnal Bird Data Aug 2024 - May 2025 Site Red Line & 300-500m Buffer UK Conservation Status (BoCC5)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Maximum Count of Birds Recorded Down		Key Habitat Association
	Aut. Passage			Winter				SP & BBS			Site Red Line	300-500m Buffer	
	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY			
1 Lapwing	1		1			2	3			1		3	arable field/hardstanding
2 Greylag Goose		340*						2				2	small wetland to NW/*overflying
3 Pink-footed Goose			400*										*overflying
4 Mallard		24				1	14		2		14	2	wet/overgrown field
5 Teal		7				1	19	5			19	7	wet/overgrown field
6 Woodcock				1	1						1	1	vegetated rough ground
7 Starling					13							13	reedbed (roost)
8 Woodpigeon								5	1			5	hedgerow
9 Moorhen							2	1	1			2	waterbody (north & south)
10 Sedge Warbler										3		3	reedbed
11 Redwing					60	40	40	9			60		hedgerow (roost)
12 Mute Swan							2					2	waterbody (north)
13 Coot									1			1	waterbody (north)
14 Grey Heron		1										1	waterbody (north)
15 Magpie						2	1	1			1		hedgerow
16 Cetti's Warbler										1			scrub
17 Reed Warbler										1			reedbed
18 Pheasant						1					1		vegetated rough ground
Key	Humber SPA Species												

36. Nocturnal surveys undertaken within the site red line boundary area and the 300-500m buffer zone generated data for 18 bird species, including five SPA species (3 qualifying species, 2 non-qualifying species of interest) (Table 10). Of these 18 species, six were recorded within the site red line boundary and 12 within the 300-500m buffer zone.
37. Of the SPA species, two were recorded down within the site red line boundary, with maximum counts of 19 Teal and 14 Mallard in the wet arable field south west of the secure port area on 11th February 2025 (Figure 4).
38. Other SPA species included Lapwing, three birds down briefly on hardstanding within the secure port area, within the 300-500m buffer zone on 11th February 2025. Up to 24 Mallard were recorded overflying the buffer zone on 18th September 2024. Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* (max. estimate 400 – 18th October 2024) and Greylag Goose (max. estimate 340 – 18th September 2024), both non-qualifying species of interest were also recorded overflying the site and buffer zone.
39. Other key species included, single Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* flushed from vegetated rough ground within the site red line boundary and 300-500m buffer zone during November

and December 2024 surveys, 13 Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* roosting in the reedbed of the north pool (December 2024) and up to 60 Redwing *Turdus iliacus* roosting in a boundary hedgerow on the site red line boundary during December 2024 to March 2025 (Figure 5).

40. Overall, a total of 97 bird species was recorded from the site red line boundary, 300-500m buffer zone and North Killingholme Haven during diurnal and nocturnal surveys covering autumn passage, winter, spring passage and breeding bird seasons. Lists including scientific names, conservation status and SPA status are presented in Appendices 1-4.



Figure 2. Site Red Line Area (below centre) eastern section and 300-500m Buffer (above centre) looking north-west – 22nd August 2024



Figure 3. Site Red Line looking south-east – 26th November 2024



Figure 4. Mallard and Teal in wet arable field - Site Red Line - 11th February 2025



Figure 5. Redwing roost, hedgerow - Site Red Line – 3rd March 2025



Figure 6. Site Red Line (foreground) and 300-500m buffer looking south-west – 10th April 2025



Figure 7. 300-500m buffer looking north-east towards north pool - 2nd May 2025

Discussion

41. The proposed site red line boundary, 300-500m buffer zone and North Killingholme Haven at North Killingholme in North Lincolnshire are located in close proximity to the Humber Estuary SPA, which as a whole supports internationally important numbers of water-birds, especially wildfowl and waders, during the winter and during spring and autumn migration (passage) periods.
42. Diurnal and nocturnal bird surveys during the period August 2024 to June 2025, covering varying tidal stages, habitats within the site red line boundary and a 300-500m buffer zone, and also covering North Killingholme Haven to provide comparative data for SPA bird species within a coastal wetland habitat, generated robust ornithological data with an overall combined total of 97 bird species recorded from these areas. The total included Humber Estuary SPA bird species, Schedule 1 protected bird species, red and amber listed bird species of conservation concern, green listed bird species not currently of conservation concern and non-native bird species currently not assessed by BoCC5.
43. The primary aim of the surveys was to determine whether habitats within the site red line boundary and adjacent habitats within a 300-500m buffer zone are utilised for foraging or as high tide roosts, and therefore considered functionally linked land and off-site supporting habitat, by key component SPA bird species during the autumn passage, winter, spring passage and breeding bird season periods.
44. Overall, habitats within both sections of the site red line boundary were found to be unsuitable for foraging or for high tide roost gatherings by Humber Estuary SPA species. Data collated from 21 diurnal surveys totalling 62 hours and ten nocturnal surveys totalling 15 hours showed that frequency and abundance of SPA bird species recorded within the site red line boundary was extremely low, with none recorded on site during diurnal surveys and only very small numbers recorded on site during one nocturnal survey. The only record of SPA species on site relates to 19 Teal and 14 Mallard present on temporary rainwater pools in the weedy arable field in the western 'L-shaped' section during the winter nocturnal

survey on 11th February 2025. Mallard and Teal were observed to leave the field during the survey and left in a north westerly direction towards the small wetland area. Both species forage nocturnally, particularly Teal, with conditions within the weedy arable field providing cover and foraging options during the winter period for these species to feed on weed seeds in shallow temporary rainwater pools. However, numbers recorded were insignificant, with similar habitat in the wider surrounding area also potentially providing foraging opportunities.

45. Habitats within the western 'L-shaped' section included the arable field, which had weedy vegetation and temporary rainwater pools during the winter period and also a field of grassland. These two areas of habitat are generally more suitable for SPA wildfowl and wader species, particularly as foraging habitat, but both are relatively small, rather enclosed by trees, hedgerows and scrub, adjacent to Fox Covert and Chase Hill Wood which may harbour predators and the grassland field has an electricity pylon situated centrally with overhead electricity wires. These features form obstacles and preclude successful direct access by SPA species, for regular flights for foraging and roosting into and out of the fields from the nearby Humber Estuary.
46. Much of the ground area within the eastern section comprised levelled aggregate hardstanding with varying numbers of vehicles stored, areas of uneven vegetated ground, spoil heaps, enclosed compounds used for material storage and roadways. The eastern section was also relatively disturbed during the diurnal period with operatives on site and frequent vehicle movements. Foraging opportunities for SPA wildfowl and waders within this section are extremely limited, particularly due to extensive areas of hard, compacted ground unsuitable for probing for food by wader species such as Redshank which requires soft substrates to forage successfully for invertebrate food and Lapwing which forages by sight for surface and ground invertebrates. In addition, the ground topography in the eastern section precluded roosting by SPA species due to the relatively small area, uneven vegetated ground, obstacles such as fenced compounds and spoil heaps precluding successful access for flights into and out of the site and also higher levels of disturbance.
47. Adjacent habitats with the 300-500m buffer zone such as arable farmland, marshy ground, two small waterbodies (north and south pools) and the small wetland area of temporarily flooded ground to the north-west provided opportunities for foraging and also breeding by SPA species, but no high tide roosts or significant aggregations of birds were located. During diurnal surveys SPA species including Lapwing, Shelduck, Mallard and Teal were recorded foraging and loafing within these habitats, however numbers were insignificant and often incidental, being dependent upon area of temporary floodwater and muddy margins.
48. During nocturnal surveys three Lapwing were recorded briefly on an area of open hardstanding north-west of the red line boundary on the February survey and a single bird heard on the arable field west of the red line boundary on the May survey. Teal and Mallard in single figures were recorded foraging on the north pool on the September and January nocturnal surveys respectively, with at least three small flocks of Mallard seen in flight overhead on the September survey. Lapwing were perhaps attracted to the site by the security floodlighting, as this species has capability for nocturnal foraging, especially at full moon, reinforcing efficiency in habitat exploitation (Cramp & Simmons 1982).
49. The most significant records of Humber Estuary SPA species within the 300-500m buffer zone were Bittern and Marsh Harrier, both Schedule 1 protected bird species. These are the most important SPA bird species recorded during the survey period, with potential breeding records within a few metres of the site red line boundary.
50. The male Bittern heard 'booming', a territorial vocalisation, from the same location within the relatively small reedbed surrounding the small pool on the diurnal surveys on 21st March and 8th April, denoting a territory for this species, as the male was heard for more than one week. No 'booming' was heard on subsequent surveys. Bitterns usually occur in large reedbeds > 20 hectares in size (Gilbert, Gibbons & Evans 1998), and defend

relatively large territories. Recent data for this rare breeding species show 248 'booming' males in the UK in 2022, with a trend for strong increase (+1,412%) over the past 25 years (Eaton *et al* 2024).

51. Marsh Harrier was regularly observed overflying the site red line boundary and 300-500m buffer zone during the autumn passage and winter periods, commuting to hunting habitat, such as farmland, coastal marshes and grassland fields within the surrounding area. During the spring period the male was observed carrying nest material (small sticks) into the small reedbed surrounding the south pool in late March and a pair regularly observed there subsequently, the male and female also seen commuting to and from the reedbed until the last breeding survey visit on 9th June and probably bred. This species is a scarce breeding bird in the UK, recent data show 448 breeding pairs in the UK in 2022 and a strong increase (+221%) over the past 25 years (Eaton *et al* 2024).
52. With regard to key component Humber Estuary SPA bird species, data collated from North Killingholme Haven during the survey period provide a clear and important illustration of the habitat suitability of this coastal wetland area adjacent to the SPA to support foraging, loafing and roosting by SPA species, compared with habitats present within the site red line boundary and 300-500m buffer zone, which were found to be largely unsuitable.
53. The shallow lagoons with controlled water-levels which create areas of open mud and muddy margins at North Killingholme Haven, provide optimum foraging habitat, particularly for SPA wader species and also SPA wildfowl species, including migrants moving between breeding sites in arctic regions and wintering areas in Britain, southern Europe and Africa. These species require areas of shallow water and exposed mud in which to forage successfully for aquatic invertebrates such as molluscs, crustaceans and worms. Species such as Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew and Redshank by probing soft substrates, Lapwing and Dunlin picking from the surface and Avocet by sweeping the bill from side to side in shallow water. This area also provides undisturbed conditions for loafing and roosting by SPA wader and wildfowl species.
54. Functionally linked habitat or off-site supporting habitat constitutes regular use of significant numbers of SPA qualifying bird species, where species counts exceed 1% of SPA non-breeding populations, species counts exceed 1,000 individuals or species counts exceed the 1% threshold and/or 1,000 individuals for two-thirds of the survey visits (Bowland Ecology 2021).
55. Data for the site red line boundary and 300-500m buffer zone, collated during diurnal and nocturnal surveys during the survey period between August 2024 and June 2025 show that very few SPA species which are typically 'flocking' species likely to occur in larger aggregations, such as waders and wildfowl, were recorded down within these areas, and were recorded in insignificant numbers and at low frequency, with no correlation for occurrence with tidal stages on the Humber Estuary. Therefore, habitats present within these two areas are not considered functionally linked land and off-site supporting habitat for these SPA species during the autumn passage, winter, spring passage and breeding bird season periods and no significant impacts to these species would occur as a result of development of the site.
56. However, significant SPA species such as Bittern and Marsh Harrier would be displaced through development within the site red line boundary. Although these two species were not recorded down within the site red line boundary, only Marsh Harrier recorded overflying in commuting flight, both species were recorded within the 300-500m buffer zone from the south pool within a few metres of the site red line boundary, as possible and probable breeding birds respectively. Despite recent trends for population increase, both are Humber Estuary SPA qualifying species listed in the SPA citation as breeding species and both are Schedule 1 protected breeding species.
57. Therefore, consideration should be given to off-site mitigation locally for Bittern and Marsh Harrier such as creation of a secure wetland with specific reedbed habitat of 20 hectares

minimum size, comprising Common Reed which once established would provide nesting and roosting habitat for both species and also foraging habitat for Bittern, particularly if stocked with fish such as Tench *Tinca tinca* and Eel *Anguilla Anguilla*.

58. Cetti's Warbler, a sedentary warbler species, typically inhabiting dense scrub including Hawthorn, Goat Willow and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and also reedbed habitat, was recorded breeding within linear scrub and hedgerow habitat along the site red line boundary. This species has expanded its breeding distribution by 6,783% over the past 40 years (Balmer *et al* 2013) and the population increased by 101% during the period 2008-2018 (Burns *et al* 2020). However, this Schedule 1 protected species would be disturbed and displaced by development of the site. Consideration should be given to providing these habitats locally as compensation for habitat lost on site which currently supports this species. Indeed, creation of a small wetland with reedbed habitat for Bittern and Marsh Harrier combined with areas of dense scrub and Goat Willow would also provide suitable habitat for Cetti's Warbler.
59. Creating this habitat locally would also provide potential foraging opportunities for Kingfisher, also a Schedule 1 protected species, which was recorded from the north pool and nearby wet drain within the 300-500m buffer zone during the winter period.
60. Little Ringed Plover, also a Schedule 1 protected species, is a summer migrant to Britain, typically found on post-industrial land, development land and wetlands including lowland marshes. This species was recorded in display flight over the 300-500m buffer zone north of the site red line boundary near the north pool and was also observed displaying and down west of the site and buffer zone on the old power station site, with two pairs likely present in these areas. This species occupies transient habitats such as post-industrial land during the breeding season, but also wetlands with areas of gravel with low vegetation. The population trend during the period 2008-2018 showed a trend for decrease of 20% (Burns *et al* 2020). Providing a relatively small area of open stony ground or pebbles alongside a wetland would perhaps encourage colonisation by this species.
61. Aside from SPA and Schedule 1 protected bird species, the bird species assemblage recorded within the site red line boundary and 300-500m buffer zone should be considered at a local level, within the context of similar surrounding habitat. Red listed and amber listed bird species of conservation concern were recorded breeding at low density, mostly associating with boundary hedgerows, scrub, reedbed and woodland, with no ground nesting red and amber listed species breeding within the site red line boundary. New planting of hedgerows and enhancement of existing hedgerows, combined with increasing areas of scrub should be considered within landscaping proposals for development. This would provide foraging and nesting habitat for red listed species such as Linnet and Yellowhammer, amber listed summer migrant warblers such as Willow Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat and resident amber listed species such as Dunnock and several more common green listed species including summer migrant warblers such as Blackcap and Lesser Whitethroat, whilst also enhancing local bird biodiversity.

Mitigation and Recommendations

62. Consider creation (or enhancement) of a small wetland locally as additional (compensation) habitat for potential displacement of Humber Estuary SPA breeding species (Bittern and Marsh Harrier) from the south pool reedbed. This would also provide habitat for Cetti's Warbler, Kingfisher and potentially Little Ringed Plover.
63. Development landscaping proposals should incorporate extensive new planting of hedgerows and areas of scrub with native species such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Goat Willow and Hazel *Corylus avellana* perhaps as site boundaries, to provide foraging and nesting habitat for red and amber listed bird species of conservation concern.
64. Site clearance works, including unavoidable removal of trees, scrub and vegetation, earth-moving and groundworks should be completed between September and February, to avoid

disturbance to birds during the breeding bird season from 1st March to 31st August (inclusive). Should any of these works be undertaken after February, a site breeding bird check should be made by a qualified ornithologist to ensure that no active nests of breeding birds are present before works commence.

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Appendix 1

Red Listed Bird Species Recorded (August 2024 - June 2025) – Conservation Status

Bird Species Recorded August 2024 - June 2025		BTO Species Code	Schedule 1 Species	Rare Breeding Birds	UK BAP Species	GB Extinction Risk	European Red List	Annex 1 Species	Scientific Name
UK Conservation Status (BoCC5) Systematic Order follows British Ornithologists Union (BOU 2025)									Humber SPA Qualifying Species
									Humber SPA Non-Qualifying Species of Interest
1	Swift	SI				EN	NT		<i>Apus apus</i>
2	Cuckoo	CK			UK	LC			<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
3	Lapwing	L.			UK	VU			<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
4	Curlew	CU			UK	EN	NT		<i>Numenius arquata</i>
5	Black-tailed Godwit	BW	1	R	UK	EN	NT		<i>Limosa limosa</i>
6	Ruff	RU	1	R		CR	NT	A1	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
7	Dunlin	DN				VU			<i>Calidris alpina</i>
8	Woodcock	WK				VU			<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
9	Kittiwake	KI				CR			<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>
10	Herring Gull	HG			UK	EN	LC		<i>Larus argentatus</i>
11	Hen Harrier	HH	1	R		EN		A1	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
12	Skylark	S.			UK	LC			<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
13	Grasshopper Warbler	GH			UK	LC			<i>Locustella naevia</i>
14	Starling	SG			UK	VU			<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
15	Mistle Thrush	M.				NT			<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
16	Yellow Wagtail	YW			UK	NT			<i>Motacilla flava</i>
17	Greenfinch	GR				EN			<i>Chloris chloris</i>
18	Linnet	LI			UK	LC			<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
19	Yellowhammer	Y.			UK	LC			<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>

Appendix 2

Amber Listed Bird Species Recorded (August 2024 - June 2025) – Conservation Status

Bird Species Recorded August 2024 - June 2025		BTO Species Code	Schedule 1 Species	Rare Breeding Birds	UK BAP Species	GB Extinction Risk	European Red List	Annex 1 Species	Scientific Name
									UK Conservation Status (BoCC5) Systematic Order follows British Ornithologists Union (BOU 2025)
									Humber SPA Non-Qualifying Species of Interest
1	Greylag Goose	GJ				LC			<i>Anser anser</i>
2	Pink-footed Goose	PG		O		LC			<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>
3	Shelduck	SU				EN			<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
4	Shoveler	SV		R		LC			<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
5	Mallard	MA				VU			<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
6	Pintail	PT		R		CR	VU		<i>Anas acuta</i>
7	Teal	T.				LC			<i>Anas crecca</i>
8	Stock Dove	SD				LC			<i>Columba oenas</i>
9	Woodpigeon	WP				LC			<i>Columba palumbus</i>
10	Moorhen	MH				VU			<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
11	Oystercatcher	OC				VU			<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
12	Avocet	AV	1	R		LC		A1	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
13	Turnstone	TT		P		VU			<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
14	Snipe	SN				VU	VU		<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
15	Green Sandpiper	GE	1	R		CR			<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
16	Redshank	RK				VU	VU		<i>Tringa totanus</i>
17	Greenshank	GK	1	R		LC			<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
18	Black-headed Gull	BH				VU			<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
19	Common Gull	CM				LC			<i>Larus canus</i>
20	Great Black-backed Gull	GB				EN			<i>Larus marinus</i>
21	Lesser Black-backed Gull	LB				DD			<i>Larus fuscus</i>
22	Bittern	BI	1	R	UK	VU		A1	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
23	Sparrowhawk	SH				VU			<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
24	Marsh Harrier	MR	1	R		LC		A1	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
25	Kestrel	K.				VU	LC		<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
26	Rook	RO				NT	VU		<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
27	Willow Warbler	WW				LC			<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
28	Sedge Warbler	SW				NT			<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
29	Whitethroat	WH				LC			<i>Curruca communis</i>
30	Wren	WR				LC			<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
31	Song Thrush	ST			UK	LC			<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
32	Redwing	RE	1	R		CR	LC		<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
33	Black Redstart	BX	1	R		VU			<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>
34	Wheatear	W.				EN			<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
35	Dunnock	D.			UK	LC			<i>Prunella modularis</i>
36	Meadow Pipit	MP				LC	LC		<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
37	Bullfinch	BF			UK	LC			<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
38	Reed Bunting	RB			UK	LC			<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>

Appendix 3

Green Listed Bird Species Recorded (August 2024 - June 2025) – Conservation Status

Bird Species Recorded		BTO Species Code	Schedule 1 Species	Rare Breeding Birds	UK BAP Species	GB Extinction Risk	European Red List	Annex 1 Species	Scientific Name
August 2024 - June 2025									Humber SPA Qualifying Species
UK Conservation Status (BoCC5) Systematic Order follows British Ornithologists Union (BOU 2025)									Humber SPA Non-Qualifying Species of Interest
1	Mute Swan	MS				LC			<i>Cygnus olor</i>
2	Tufted Duck	TU				VU	NT		<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
3	Water Rail	WA				LC			<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
4	Coot	CO				VU			<i>Fulica atra</i>
5	Little Grebe	LG				LC			<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
6	Golden Plover	GP				LC		A1	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
7	Little Ringed Plover	LP	1	R		LC			<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
8	Cormorant	CA				NT			<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
9	Grey Heron	H.				VU			<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
10	Little Egret	ET		R		LC			<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
11	Buzzard	BZ				LC			<i>Buteo buteo</i>
12	Kingfisher	KF	1			VU	LC	A1	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
13	Great Spotted Woodpecker	GS				LC			<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
14	Green Woodpecker	G.				NT			<i>Picus viridis</i>
15	Peregrine	PE	1	R		LC		A1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
16	Jay	J.				LC			<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
17	Magpie	MG				LC			<i>Pica pica</i>
18	Jackdaw	JD				LC			<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
19	Carrion Crow	C.				LC			<i>Corvus corone</i>
20	Blue Tit	BT				LC			<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
21	Great Tit	GT				LC			<i>Parus major</i>
22	Sand Martin	SM				LC			<i>Riparia riparia</i>
23	Swallow	SL				VU			<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
24	Cetti's Warbler	CW	1			LC			<i>Cettia cetti</i>
25	Long-tailed Tit	LT				LC			<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
26	Chiffchaff	CC				LC			<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
27	Reed Warbler	RW				LC			<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
28	Blackcap	BC				LC			<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
29	Lesser Whitethroat	LW				LC			<i>Curruca curruca</i>
30	Goldcrest	GC				LC			<i>Regulus regulus</i>
31	Blackbird	B.				LC			<i>Turdus merula</i>
32	Robin	R.				LC			<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
33	Stonechat	SC				LC			<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
34	Pied Wagtail	PW				LC			<i>Motacilla alba</i>
35	Chaffinch	CH				EN			<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
36	Brambling	BL	1	O		LC			<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
37	Goldfinch	GO				LC			<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>

Appendix 4

Bird Species Not-Assessed by BoCC5 (August 2024 - June 2025) – Conservation Status

Bird Species Recorded August 2024 - June 2025 UK Conservation Status (BoCC5) Systematic Order follows British Ornithologists Union (BOU 2025)		BTO Species Code	Schedule 1 Species	Rare Breeding Birds	UK BAP Species	GB Extinction Risk	European Red List	Annex 1 Species	Scientific Name
									Humber SPA Qualifying Species
									Humber SPA Non-Qualifying Species of Interest
1	Canada Goose	CG							<i>Branta canadensis</i>
2	Pheasant	PH							<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
3	Red-legged Partridge	RL					NT		<i>Alectoris rufa</i>

Appendix 5

United Kingdom Conservation Status of Birds

The fifth major review of the status of birds occurring in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man – *Birds of Conservation Concern 5* (BoCC5) (Stanbury *et al.* 2021), presents lists of conservation concern based on assessments using objective listing criteria and most recent data. The listing criteria assess global conservation status, historical population decline, recent population decline (numbers and geographical range), European conservation status, rarity, localised distribution, and international importance of populations.

Lists are denoted Red, Amber and Green in a simple ‘traffic light’ system to provide a single, easily understood measure for each species to convey concern and hence to help set priorities for conservation action. Species are assigned to each list depending upon the scale of population decline and concern which includes breeding and non-breeding populations.

Red is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action.

Red list criteria include:

- Species is globally threatened.
- Historical population decline during 1800-1995.
- Severe (>50%) decline in the UK breeding population over the last 25 years or longer-term period (the entire period used for assessments since the first BoCC review, starting in 1996).
- Severe (> 50%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years, or the longer-term period.

Amber list criteria include:

- Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe (ERLOB - European Red List of Birds).
- Historical population decline during 1800-1995, but recovering; population size has more than doubled over last 25 years.
- Moderate (25-50%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years or longer-term period.
- Moderate (25-50%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years or longer-term period.
- Moderate (25-50%) decline in UK non-breeding population over last 25 years or longer-term period.
- Rare breeding bird; 1-300 breeding pairs in UK.
- Rare non-breeding bird; less than 900 individuals.
- Localised; at least 50% of UK breeding or non-breeding population in 10 or fewer sites, but not applied to rare breeding or non-breeding birds.
- Internationally important; at least 20% of European breeding or non-breeding population in UK (NW European and East Atlantic Flyway populations used for non-breeding wildfowl and waders respectively).

Green list criteria:

- The least critical group, species that occur regularly in the UK but do not qualify under red or amber criteria, and therefore not currently considered of conservation concern.

Introduced (non-native) Species:

- BoCC5 concerns native bird species only and not those introduced to the United Kingdom by humans, whether intentionally or accidentally. Populations of non-native bird species are not considered of conservation value, indeed introduced species can be harmful to the natural environment. These species are therefore not assessed for conservation

Summary of Relevant Legislation with Regard to Birds

The primary legislation affecting wild birds in England and Wales is the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) as amended (www.legislation.gov.uk). The basic principle of this act is that all wild birds, their nests, and eggs are protected by law and some rare species are afforded additional protection from disturbance during the breeding season (Schedule 1.). The term wild bird is defined as any bird of a species which is resident in, or a visitor to, the European territory of any Member State, in a wild state. Game birds are not included in this definition (except in certain sections of the Act) but are covered by the Game Acts which give protection in the close season.

The Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) states that 'it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:

1. Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.
2. Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.
3. Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
4. Have in one's possession or control any wild bird (dead or alive), part of a wild bird or egg of a wild bird which has been taken in contravention of the Act, the Protection of Birds Act 1958 or the law of any EU Member State (which implements the EU Birds Directive 1979).
5. Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building or is in, on or near a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependant young of such a bird.
6. Have in one's possession or control any birds of a species listed on Schedule 4 of the Act, unless registered and ringed in accordance with the Secretary of State's regulations.

Rare Breeding Birds in the United Kingdom

The U.K. Rare Breeding Bird Panel (RBBP) (www.rbbp.org.uk) collates data on over 160 species of rare breeding birds and scarcer non-native breeding species, and ensures data are archived properly and are used for conservation. This informs understanding of the status, distribution and population trends of the rarest breeding birds, too rare to monitor in any other way, and also species introduced to the U.K. Archived records form the definitive historical record of rare breeding birds in the U.K. Breeding species are categorised as – regular breeder, occasional breeder, potential breeder, former breeder and colonising.

United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) Bird Species

United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (U.K. BAP) Bird Species (jncc.gov.uk/uk_bap_priority_bird_species) are those identified by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the U.K. Biodiversity Action Plan and included on a list of priority bird species, initially created between 1995 and 1999, and subsequently updated in response to the Species and Habitats Review Report published in 2007. Original species on the U.K. BAP list (1995-1999) have a Species Action Plan (SAP) which provides details of relevant conservation information and action.

Following devolution, the U.K. BAP was, in July 2012, succeeded by the U.K. Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework which is focused at a country-level (England, Wales, Scotland &

Northern Ireland) rather than at a U.K. level, with the list of priority bird species remaining an important reference source for conservation of individual bird species and also for conservation of bird biodiversity within a specified area or site. U.K. BAP species are identified in order to guide decision-makers, such as local planning authorities and regional authorities, in their duty to have regard to the conservation of bird biodiversity. Further information may be found at:

data.jncc.gov.uk/data/UKBAP-priority-birds

UK Biodiversity Action Plan, List of UK BAP Priority Bird Species (2007) JNCC.

IUCN Red List Status

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List process is an assessment of extinction risk, using standard criteria applied to assess any bird taxon. IUCN Red Lists are used to assess the global status of species, but can also be applied at regional, national or local scales, including the *European Red List of Birds* (Birdlife International 2021). Birdlife International (the official International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List authority for birds) determines the global conservation status of birds (www.iucn.org/theme/species/birds).

The IUCN red list is used by government agencies, wildlife departments, conservation-related non-governmental organisations (NGOs), natural resource planners, educational organisations, students, and the business community. It is crucial to identify bird species requiring targeted recovery efforts, but also for focusing on conservation to identify key sites and habitats that need conserving.

The second IUCN Regional Red List assessment of extinction risk for birds in Great Britain (IUCN2) is presented in Stanbury *et al.* (2021), *Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (BoCC5)*, and assesses the extinction risk threat level for regularly occurring bird species, breeding bird species and non-breeding populations.

IUCN Red List threat categories:

Critically Endangered (CR) – Considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

Endangered (EN) – Considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.

Vulnerable (VU) - Considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

Near Threatened (NT) – Does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable now, but is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.

Least Concern (LC) - Does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened. Population is stable enough that it is unlikely to face extinction in the near future. Widespread and abundant taxa are included in this category.

Data Deficient (DD) - A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status. A taxon in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known, but appropriate data on abundance and/or distribution are lacking. Data Deficient is therefore not a category of threat. Listing of taxa in this category indicates that more information is required and acknowledges the possibility that future research will show that threatened classification is appropriate. It is important to make positive use of whatever data are available. In many cases great care should be exercised in choosing between DD and a threatened status. If the range of a taxon is suspected to be relatively circumscribed, and a considerable period of time has elapsed since the last record of the taxon, threatened status may well be justified.

Not Evaluated (NE) - A taxon is Not Evaluated when it has not yet been evaluated against the criteria.

EU Biodiversity Legislation

Additional protection for birds is also provided to species listed within the European Union (EU) Wild Birds Directive 2009/147/EC. This imposes strict legal obligations on EU member states to maintain populations of naturally occurring wild birds at levels corresponding to ecological requirements and to preserve a sufficient diversity and areas of habitats for their conservation. Further information may be found at:

ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective

jncc.defra.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-habitat-regulations-2017

Bird species mentioned in Annex I (193 species and sub-species (races)) are particularly threatened and form the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. Further information may be found at:

ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/threatened/index_en.htm