

ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT

NORTH KILLINGHOLME, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

OPTIONS A & B

Spring Passage & Breeding Birds

(March – June 2025)



Waxwings Ornithology

Sunnybank Cottage

Ruston Parva

Driffield

East Yorkshire

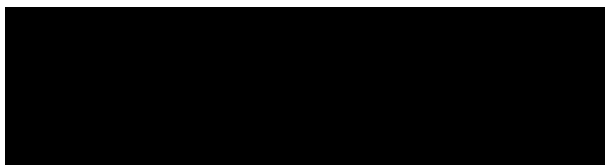
YO25 4DG

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Waxwings Ornithology
Sunnybank Cottage
Ruston Parva
Driffield
East Yorkshire
YO25 4DG

Completed:

8th July 2025

**Client:**

OVE ARUP & Partners International Ltd.
Rose Wharf
78 East Street
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS9 8EE

On behalf of:**Survey Address:**

North Killingholme, North Lincolnshire
Central Grid Reference - approx. TA 1567 1886

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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 March to June 2025 incorporating the spring passage and breeding bird seasons.

The land, which is linked to the main Killingholme Power Project Site, is between 1-3 kilometres west of the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA). The red line boundary incorporates Option A (Eastern Route) and Option B (Western Route) pipeline spurs, Chase Hill Road Corridor connecting the two spurs and the northern extension area.

Option A comprises land parcels of mostly open rough ground and grassland with hedgerow and field drain boundaries, also hardstanding used for vehicle storage, Option B comprises mostly arable farmland with wet drains and hedgerow boundaries and the northern extension mostly post-industrial land. Most recent development proposals include a pipeline route with construction laydown area.

Outside the red line boundary are further areas of grassland, farmland and reedbed areas. Rosper Road Pits, a small wetland area adjacent to the southern boundary of Option A was included to provide comparative data for a coastal wetland.

The primary aim of the surveys was to determine whether habitats within the site red line boundary and adjacent habitats are utilised by SPA species and considered functionally linked land and off-site supporting habitat during the spring passage period and breeding bird season. 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.

Overall, a total of 69 bird species was recorded from all areas during the spring passage period and breeding bird seasons, including ten Humber Estuary SPA bird species and three non-qualifying species of interest, 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.

During diurnal surveys, SPA bird species were recorded in insignificant numbers within Option A, none were recorded from Option B and eight were recorded from Rosper Road Pits, including a significant count of 1,037 Black-tailed Godwits in March 2025. Insignificant numbers of SPA species were recorded from three nocturnal surveys, undertaken monthly in March, April and May 2025. Land within Option A and Option B was not considered functionally linked and off-site supporting habitat for SPA species during the survey period, whereas Rosper Road Pits is considered functionally linked and off-site supporting habitat for SPA species during the survey period.

Mitigation recommendations include surveys during the autumn passage and winter periods from August 2025 to March 2026 to determine use of the land by SPA bird species during these periods.

Introduction

1. The North Killingholme pipeline spurs Option A (Eastern Route) and Option B (Western Route) land areas are situated in North Lincolnshire, east of the village of North Killingholme, approximately 1.3 and 2.9 kilometres from the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) respectively (Figure 1). Option A is located south-east, and Option B south-west, of the main Killingholme Power Project Site (Main Site) which includes the Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) and Carbon Capture Project (CCP) areas, and also the construction laydown area. The two pipeline option routes are connected by a corridor running north-east to south-west along Chase Hill Road from the northern end of each area, and with the main site by a corridor, the northern extension area, running north-west from Chase Hill Road, adjacent to and immediately west of the woodland of Chase Hill Wood and Fox Covert

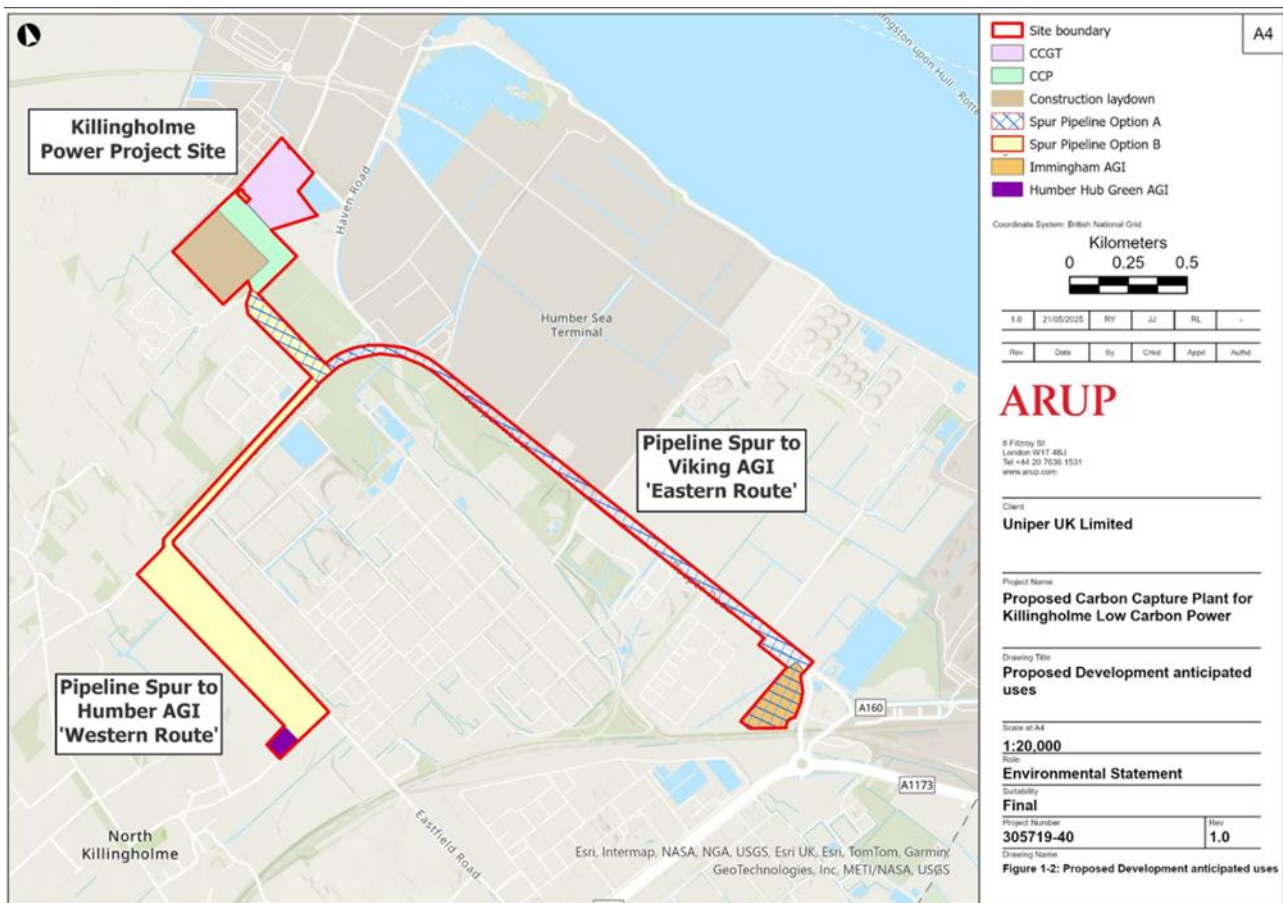


Figure 1. Site Survey Area Location and Context

2. Option A can be divided into two sections, land north of the central Access Road 3 and land south of this road. North of Access Road 3, habitat comprises a large area of open rough ground with sparse vegetation, large areas of hardstanding used for vehicle storage and a small wetland area at the northern end, with ponds, reedbed and scrub habitat, south of Chase Hill Wood and at the junction of Haven Road and Chase Hill Road. South of Access Road 3, habitat comprises areas of open grassland and rough ground, fields of pasture and permanent grassland including mowing fields and areas of marsh with reedbed habitat, bordered by hedgerows and wet field drains. Between Access Road 3 and Marsh Lane, some of the fields in the southern part have large piles of brushwood present from previously removed scrub and hedgerows.
3. At the southern end of Option A, immediately south of the red line boundary, there is a small wetland, Rosper Road Pits (North-East Lindsey Drainage Board), which includes an area of open shallow water fringed by Common Reed *Phragmites australis*.

4. Option B comprises open fields of arable farmland utilised for growing cereal crops in the northern part, with three fields of pasture, including a wet section, a small area of rough ground partly utilised for storing manure and a further arable field in the southern part. Fields are bordered by hedgerows and tree-lines with small areas of scrub present at the southern end. The Lindsey Oil Refinery is situated to the east.
5. The narrow corridor north-east to south-west along Chase Hill Road, connecting the northern parts of Option A and Option B comprises roadside hedgerows, areas of young trees and tree-lines and short sward grassland. The narrow corridor connecting the main site and northern extension area, north-west from Chase Hill Road, comprises roadside short sward grass verges, drainage channels, scrub and trees west of Chase Hill Wood and Fox Covert, a largely broad-leaved woodland.
6. Habitat between the two option areas includes Lindsey Oil Refinery, industrial premises, railway infrastructure and also Burkinshaws Covert, an area of broad-leaved woodland which borders Rosper Road along the western margin of the northern part of Option A.
7. Outside the red line boundary east of Option A, habitat includes fields of grassland, wet areas with reedbeds, large areas of open rough vegetated ground and areas of hardstanding used for vehicle storage eastwards to the River Humber estuary. West and north of Option B, habitat includes further arable farmland and fields of grassland and pasture. North of Chase Hill Road corridor, habitat includes Killingholme Power Station and further areas of farmland and trees, with Lindsey Oil Refinery to the south.

Methodology

8. An initial check of habitats present within the Option A and Option B pipeline spur areas was made from public roads on 17th December 2024, which identified the potential for land parcels within both areas to support Humber Estuary SPA bird species (Table 1) such as wildfowl and waders, during the winter period (November to February) and spring (March to May) and autumn passage (August to October) periods. Also, to support red and amber listed ground nesting species, such as Skylark *Alauda arvensis* and Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* respectively, during the breeding bird season (March to August). This helped to inform a bird survey programme covering the spring passage and the main part of the breeding bird season from March to June 2025.
9. Aims of the surveys from March to June 2025 were to determine whether habitats within the site red line boundary and those adjacent are utilised by key component SPA bird species during the spring passage period, and therefore considered functionally linked land and off-site supporting habitat, and to inform on the breeding bird assemblage present.
10. Qualifying bird species for which the Humber Estuary SPA has been designated, with their respective seasonal and assemblage importance, are listed in Table 1. 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 1. 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

- Fields and land parcels within the Option A and Option B pipeline spur areas, the northern extension area and connecting corridors were designated codes for bird recording (Table 2, Figures 2 to 4) in order to identify site locations and to determine key areas of bird distribution and abundance within the site red line boundary. Areas outside the red line boundary towards the Humber Estuary included a 300-500m buffer zone east of the Option A pipeline spur. Field and land parcel habitats are listed in Table 3.

Table 2. Field and Land Parcel Recording Codes

AN1	Option A North 1	AS4	Option A South 4	B1	Option B 1
AN2	Option A North 2	AS5	Option A South 5	B2	Option B 2
AN3	Option A North 3	AS6	Option A South 6	B3	Option B 3
AS1	Option A South 1	AS7	Option A South 7	B4	Option B 4
AS2	Option A South 2	AS8	Option A South 8	B5	Option B 5
AS3	Option A South 3	RRP	Rosper Road Pits	B6	Option B 6
CHRC	Chase Hill Road Corridor				
HRP	Haven Road Ponds				
CHW	Chase Hill Wood & Fox Covert				
NEC	Northern Extension Corridor				
NE1	Northern Extension 1 - Laydown Area				

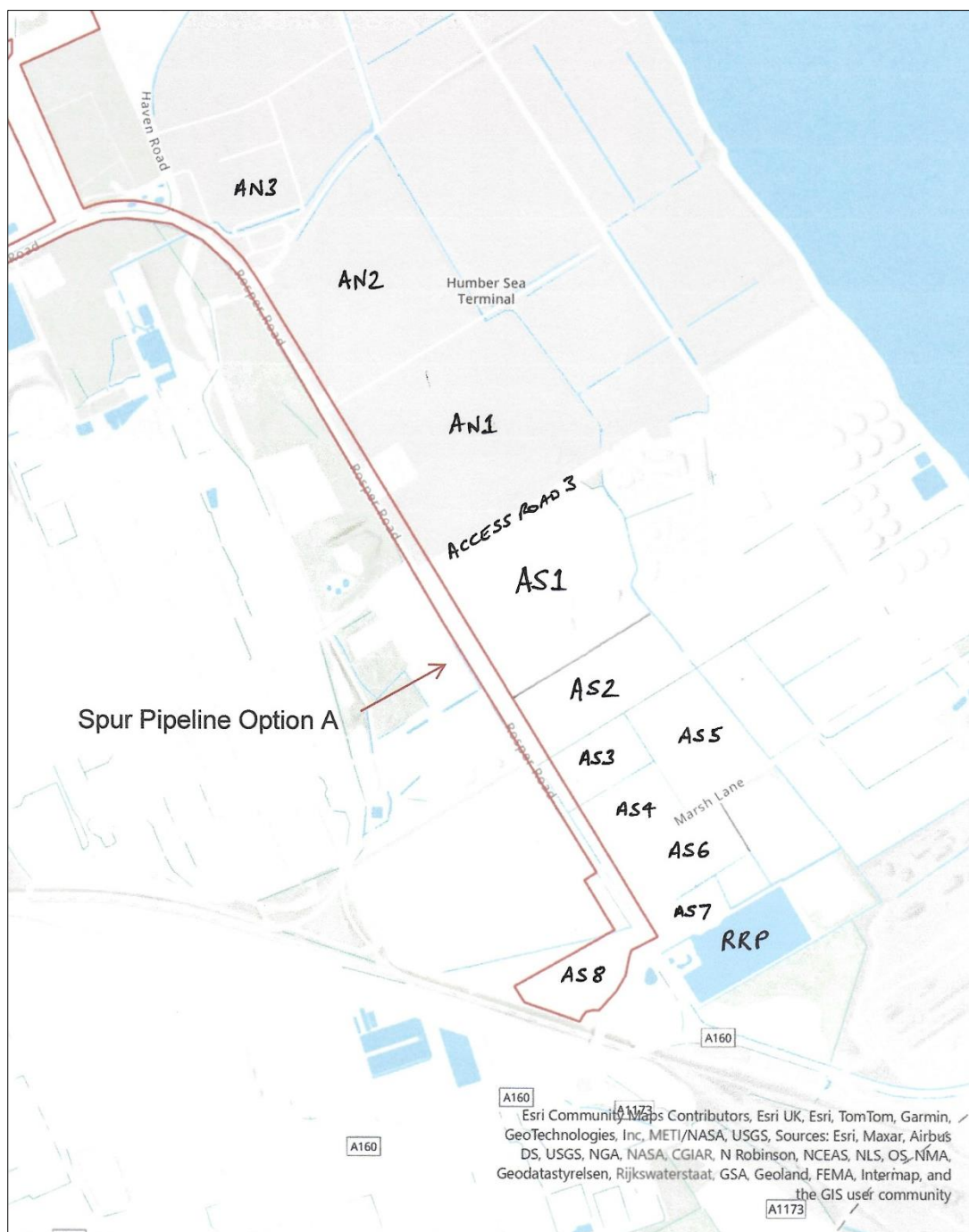


Figure 2. Option A (Eastern Route) – Land Parcel Recording Codes

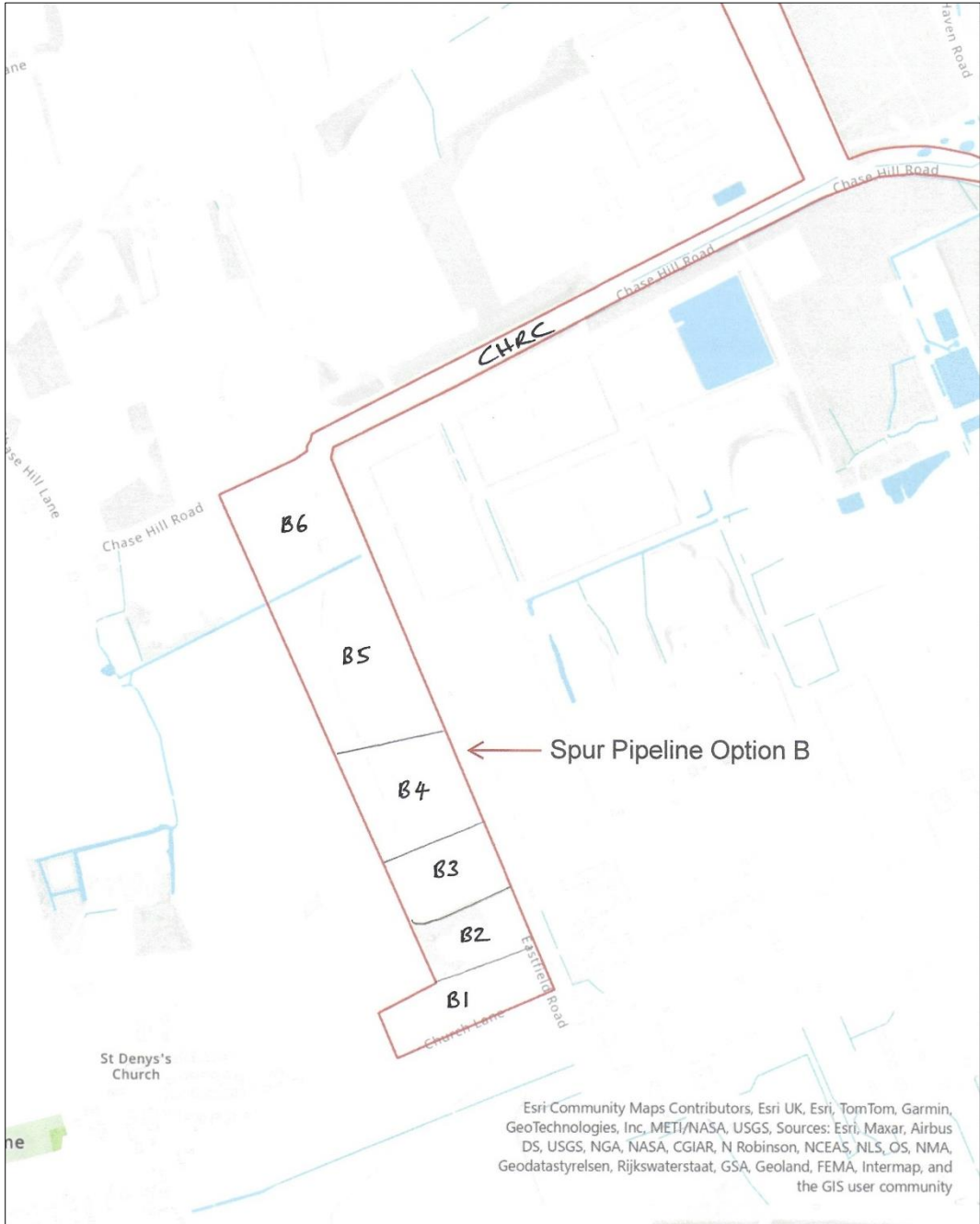


Figure 3. Option B (Western Route) – Land Parcel Recording Codes

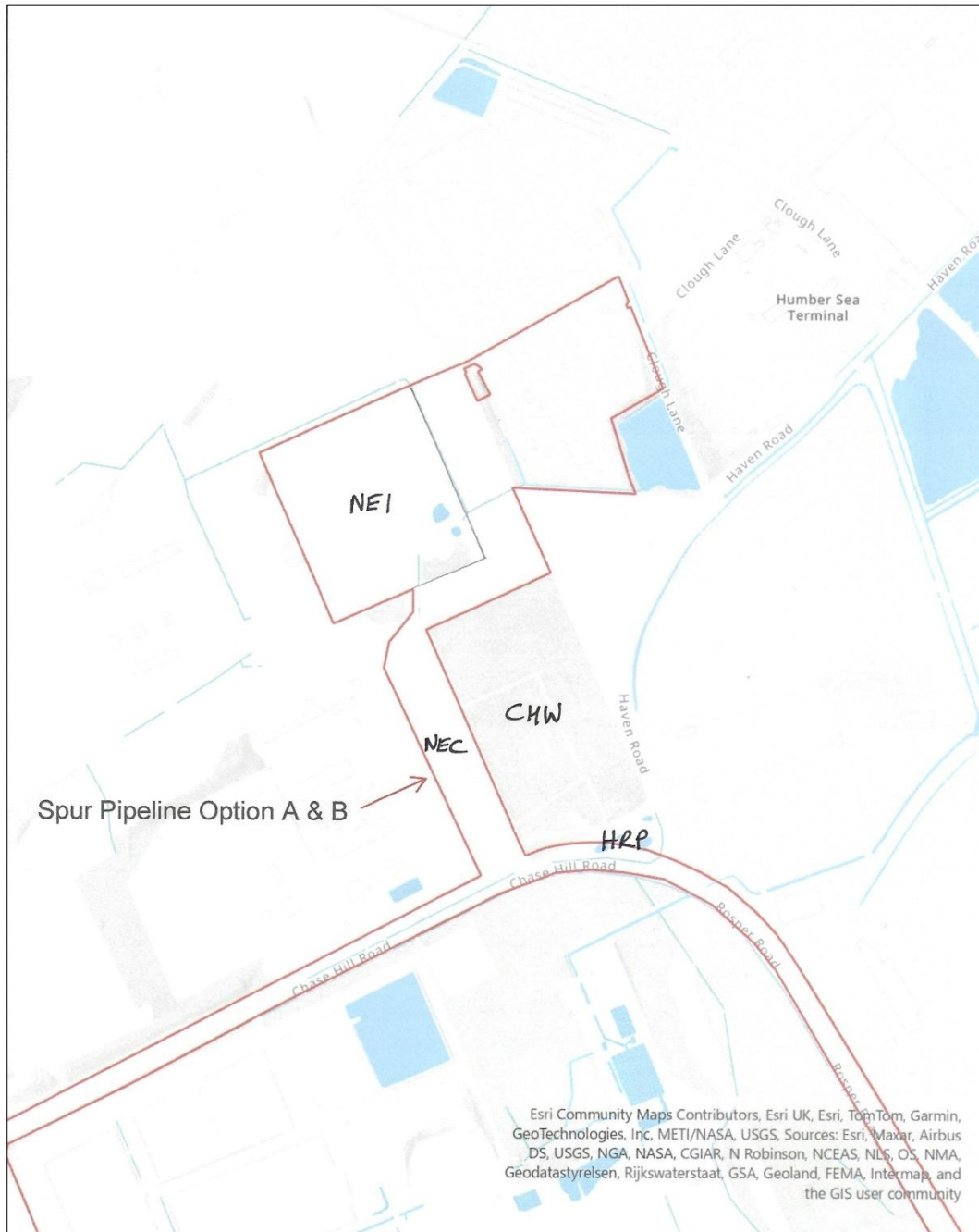


Figure 4. Option A & B (Northern Extension) – Land Parcel Recording Codes

Table 3. Field and Land Parcel Habitat

AN1	rough ground	AS4	grassland	B1	arable farmland
AN2	hardstanding	AS5	rough grassland	B2	scrub/rough ground
AN3	hardstanding	AS6	grassland	B3	pasture
AS1	rough grassland	AS7	grassland	B4	arable farmland
AS2	grassland	AS8	rough grassland/reedbed	B5	arable farmland
AS3	grassland	RRP	wetland	B6	arable farmland
CHRC	hedgerows, tree-lines, short sward/amenity grassland				
HRP	ponds, reedbed, scrub, hedgerows				
CHW	broad-leaved/mixed woodland				
NEC	short sward/amenity grassland				
NE1	post-industrial land				

12. During March to June 2025, eight diurnal survey visits were undertaken covering Option A and Option B land areas, the northern extension area and connecting corridors within the red line boundary and visible parts of the buffer zone, from 24th March to 16th June 2025 (inclusive) (Table 4). Coverage of the construction laydown area within the northern extension (NE1) was included during the latter part of the survey period and was observed on visits six to eight from the perimeter fence as access to this section was not available.
13. Survey visits combined to cover the spring passage period, which is essentially March to May, and the breeding bird season which commences in March, includes the core period from April to June and also the period July and August.
14. In addition to diurnal surveys, three monthly nocturnal survey visits were undertaken from 27th March to 2nd May 2025 (inclusive) which covered the spring passage period (Table 4).

Table 4. Diurnal and Nocturnal Survey Visits, Tidal and Weather Data

Visit No.	Survey	Survey Date	HW	m.	LW	m.	SR	SS	Survey Times	Wind	Cloud Cover	Vis.	Temp. °C	Remarks
1	SP/BBS V1/8	24/03/2025	1326	5.3	0657	3.0	0552	1821	0730-1300	F1-2SE	8/8-5/8	> 3km	7-12	Sunny intervals, mild
2	SP/BBS V2/8	27/03/2025	0427	6.5	1029	1.8	0544	1827	1000-1800	F2 SW	2/8-3/8	> 3km	10-18	Sunny, warm
N1	SP Nocturnal	27/03/2025	1625	6.7	2304	1.1	0544	1827	1930-2200	F2 S	4/8-3/8	> 3km	14-13	Cloudy, no precipitation
3	SP/BBS V3/8	09/04/2025	0505	6.1	1051	2.3	0613	1950	0630-0915	F1-2SE	8/8	> 3km	2-9	Misty early, sunny, cool
N2	SP Nocturnal	10/04/2025	1736	6.6	0005	1.2	0614	1952	2015-2215	F1 W	0/8	> 3km	11-8	Clear, cool, no precipitation
4	SP/BBS V4/8	16/04/2025	0832	6.8	1451	1.5	0559	2003	0630-0945	F2-3SE	5/8	> 3km	8-11	Sunny periods, cool
N3	SP Nocturnal	02/05/2025	2224	6.6	1618	1.3	0525	2032	2345-0130	Calm	1/8	> 3km	8-7	Clear, cool, no precipitation
5	SP/BBS V5/8	07/05/2025	0323	5.9	0915	2.8	0515	2041	0620-0950	F1 NE	4/8	> 3km	7-10	Sunny periods, cool
6	SP/BBS V6/8	30/05/2025	0848	7.0	1527	1.0	0440	2117	0600-0930	F2-4W	5/8-6/8	> 3km	15-16	Sunny intervals, breezy, warm
7	SP/BBS V7/8	10/06/2025	0608	6.5	1227	1.8	0432	2129	0600-0930	F4-5W	8/8-5/8	> 3km	14-17	Sunny intervals, breezy, warm
8	SP/BBS V8/8	16/06/2025	0944	6.6	0348	1.9	0430	2133	0600-1045	F2W	1/8-3/8	> 3km	16-24	Sunny, bright, warm
Key - HW = high tide, LW = low tide, m. = metres, SR = sunrise, SS = sunset (Immingham)														
SP = spring passage, BBS = breeding bird survey														

15. 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.
16. Diurnal and nocturnal survey visits during the survey period March to June 2025 were undertaken during varying tidal stages on the Humber Estuary, covering the high-water period, 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 1) 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 spring passage and breeding bird season periods.
17. Diurnal surveys were completed between 06.00 and 18.00 GMT/BST during varying weather conditions and good visibility. During diurnal surveys the site was covered to within 200-300m of every point, mostly from public roads, as access to walk all the land parcel recording sections was not available.

18. Nocturnal bird surveys were completed between 20.15 and 01.30 GMT/BST during varying weather conditions and good visibility. The site was covered to within 200-300m of every point scanning from public roads.
19. 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.
20. Survey limitations and constraints were identified, with no agreed access to cover land parcel recording sections by walkover transects for recording breeding birds on diurnal surveys, within the southern part of Option A, including AS1 to AS8 and also Rosper Road Pits, within the northern part of Option A, including AN1, within Option B, including B1 to B6 and within the northern extension area NE1 (laydown area). Coverage of NE1 was included during the latter part of the survey period, but was only possible by observing from the perimeter fence on visits six to eight. Rosper Road Pits were covered from Rosper Road at the western end, but the full wetland area couldn't be observed from this location.
21. These limitations and constraints meant that most bird recording was limited to scanning recording sections from a distance, whilst listening for bird songs and calls to provide bird registration data to enter on field maps, rather than recording birds at close proximity during a walkover transect covering land parcel boundary habitats such as hedgerows. This created limitations with overall assessment of breeding bird populations present on site. Recording spring passage data for SPA bird species on diurnal surveys was limited, with no agreed access to check and obtain counts for birds present on Rosper Road Pits. However, suitable access was available for other recording sections for SPA bird species on diurnal surveys and whilst not access was granted for sections AN2 and AN3, access was not required as these areas are used for extensive vehicle storage.
22. Due to access restrictions, and also site topography, it was not possible to use Vantage Point survey methodology successfully for recording spring passage birds, with diurnal survey visits combining spring passage and breeding bird surveys in order to obtain the most robust data possible during the March to June survey period in spring 2025.
23. Access restrictions to land parcels, particularly within the southern part of Option A, also limited nocturnal bird recording due to restricted viewing.
24. 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. David Bratt and Ralf Butchers (Biome Consulting) assisted with diurnal and nocturnal surveys on 27th March 2025.

Results

Diurnal Surveys, Spring Passage (March to June 2025)

Table 5. Spring Passage - Humber SPA Species Diurnal Data by Date and Land Parcel

Visit Area	D1 - 24/03/2025	D2 - 27/03/2025	D3 - 09/04/2025	D4 - 16/04/2025	D5 - 07/05/2025	D6 - 30/05/2025	D7 - 10/06/2025	D8 - 16/06/2025
AS1				Lapwing 2 Marsh Harrier 1*	Lapwing 1 Marsh Harrier 1*	Lapwing 2 Marsh Harrier 1*		
AS2	Lapwing 5 Curlew 11 Greylag Goose 5	Lapwing 6 Curlew 27 Greylag Goose 1	Curlew 2 Mallard 1 Greylag Goose 5	Lapwing 1 Curlew 1 Shelduck 1 Mallard 2 Greylag Goose 5	Greylag Goose 7	Mallard 2		
AS3			Curlew 2					Marsh Harrier 1*
AS4			Curlew 7					Marsh Harrier 1*
AS5				Marsh Harrier 1*				Marsh Harrier 2*
AS6	Curlew 46	Mallard 4 Greylag Goose 1	Lapwing 4 Curlew 2					
AS7	Mallard 1 Greylag Goose 1							
AS8							Mallard 1	
AN1								
AN2								
AN3								
HRP	Mallard 1							
NEC	Mallard 2							
B1								
B2								
B3								
B4								
B5								
B6								
NE1								
RRP	Lapwing 15 Black-T Godwit 758 Shelduck 18 Wigeon 12 Mallard 18 Teal 20 Oystercatcher 2 Avocet 10 Greylag Goose 6 Shoveler 8	Lapwing 1 Black-T Godwit 1037 Shelduck 3 Mallard 1 Teal 6 Greylag Goose 6	Black-T Godwit 45 Shelduck 2 Mallard 4 Greylag Goose 12	Shelduck 2 Mallard 3 Greylag Goose 2 Shoveler 1	Shelduck 4 Mallard 7	Mallard 1 Greylag Goose 66	Pochard 2 Mallard 12 Greylag Goose 42 Shoveler 1	Mallard 68 Greylag Goose 86 Shoveler 1
Key - * = overflying/hunting flight, <i>italics</i> = SPA non-qualifying species of interest					BoCC5 Red Listed		BoCC5 Amber Listed	

25. A total of 10 Humber SPA qualifying species and two non-qualifying species of interest for the SPA was recorded during diurnal surveys undertaken from March to June 2025 (inclusive), the total included five wildfowl species and five wader species, with two non-qualifying wildfowl species (Table 5).
26. Recording sections within Option A south and Rosper Road Pits generated the most data for SPA species, with land parcels AS2, AS3, AS4 and AS6 the most frequently used fields within Option A. Within these fields, maximum counts of key component SPA species included 46 Curlew *Numenius arquata* in AS6 (24/03/2025) and 27 in AS2 (27/03/2025), with AS2 the most consistently used field by this species. Up to six Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* were also recorded in AS2, with four in AS6. Up to four Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* were recorded from AS2 and AS6 and a single Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* was recorded foraging in AS2.
27. Up to eight SPA species were recorded from Rosper Road Pits in March 2025, including large counts of Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* foraging and loafing, with 758 on 24th March and 1037 on 27th March, reducing to 45 on 9th April. Peak numbers of Lapwing (15), Shelduck (18), Wigeon *Mareca penelope* (12), Teal *Anas crecca* (20), Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (2) and Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (10) were also recorded on

24th March 2025. Post breeding concentrations of 68 Mallard, including many 'eclipse' plumage moulting drakes and 86 Greylag Geese were recorded on 16th June 2025.

28. No SPA qualifying species were recorded down within the Option B site red line boundary, but eight Curlew were foraging on pasture to the west, just outside the red line boundary adjacent to section B3, during high water conditions on the estuary on 16th April 2025. No SPA qualifying species were recorded within Option A north and section NE1. Mallard was recorded from Haven Road Ponds (max. 1) and from the roadside drainage channel in the northern extension corridor (max. 2).

Diurnal Surveys, Breeding Birds – Red & Amber Listed Species (March to June 2025)

Table 6. Estimate of Breeding Populations & Breeding Status by Recording Section

Option A & Option B BBS March - June 2025		Option A North	Option A South	Rosper Road Pits	Option B	Chase Hill Road Corridor	Haven Road Ponds	Chase Hill Wood & Northern Extension Corridor	NE1 Laydown Area
UK Conservation Status (BoCC5) Systematic Order follows British Ornithologists Union (BOU 2025)		AN 1,2,3	AS 1-8		B 1-6				
1	Pochard			1 P (prob)					
2	Swift		non-br	non-br					non-br
3	Lapwing	non-br	6 P (poss)	non-br					non-br
4	Curlew		non-br	non-br					
5	Black-tailed Godwit			non-br					
6	Herring Gull		non-br		non-br	non-br			
7	Skylark	2 T (prob)	7 T (prob)		3 T (prob)				
8	Starling		non-br						
9	Linnet		2 T (prob)		3 T (prob)				1 T (prob)
10	Yellowhammer				2 T (conf)				2 T (prob)
11	Greylag Goose		4 P (prob)	2 P (conf)		non-br			
12	Shelduck		non-br	non-br					
13	Shoveler			1 P (prob)					
14	Gadwall			1 P (prob)					
15	Wigeon			non-br					
16	Mallard		3 P (prob)	3 P (conf)		non-br	non-br		
17	Teal			non-br					
18	Oystercatcher			non-br					
19	Avocet			non-br					
20	Stock Dove	non-br			non-br			1 T (prob)	non-br
21	Woodpigeon		4 P (prob)		3 P (prob)	5 P (prob)		4 P (prob)	
22	Moorhen			1 T (prob)					
23	Black-headed Gull	non-br	non-br	80+ P (conf)	non-br	non-br			
24	Common Gull				non-br				
25	Lesser Black-backed Gull		non-br	1 P (prob)	non-br				
26	Sparrowhawk					1 P (prob)			
27	Marsh Harrier		1 P (prob)						
28	Kestrel	1 P (poss)	non-br			1 P (prob)			non-br
29	Rook	non-br			non-br				
30	Sedge Warbler		4 T (prob)	1 T (prob)					2 T (prob)
31	Whitethroat	1 T (prob)	3 T (prob)	1 T (prob)	5 T (prob)	1 T (prob)		1 T (prob)	3 T (prob)
32	Wren	1 T (prob)	9 T (prob)		6 T (prob)	11 T (prob)	3 T (prob)	8 T (prob)	2 T (prob)
33	Song Thrush		1 T (prob)		1 T (prob)	3 T (prob)	1 T (prob)	3 T (prob)	
34	Redstart		non-br						
35	Dunnock	1 T (prob)	3 T (prob)	1 T (prob)	2 T (prob)	3 T (prob)	1 T (prob)	2 T (prob)	1 T (prob)
36	Meadow Pipit	3 T (prob)	6 T (prob)						
37	Bullfinch					1 T (prob)			
38	Reed Bunting		7 T (prob)	2 T (prob)					2 T (prob)
Key		Humber Estuary SPA Species			SPA Non-Qual. Species of Interest			Schedule 1 Species	
T - territories, P - Pairs		Breeding Status		conf = confirmed	prob = probable		poss = possible		

29. Key red listed SPA species recorded breeding included an estimated six pairs of Lapwing within grassland in Option A south, with two pairs each from AS1, AS2 and AS6. One pair of Pochard *Aythya ferina* (Schedule 1) probably bred at Rosper Road Pits, a pair present on 10th June, but no hatched or fledged young were observed on survey visits (Table 6).

30. Other key red listed breeding species included one ground nesting species, with up to nine Skylark *Alauda arvensis* territories in Option A and three in Option B. Two and three territories of Linnet *Linaria cannabina* were recorded in Option A and Option B respectively (Table 6).
31. Only two amber listed SPA species were recorded breeding, with three pairs of Mallard from wet areas including field drains within Option A and three pairs from Rosper Road Pits. Marsh Harrier (Schedule 1) *Circus aeruginosus* was frequently observed hunting over grassland and fields within Option A south, with male and female birds recorded. This pair probably nested in the large area of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* towards the River Humber east of Option A south.
32. Low single figure numbers of pairs of Greylag Geese *Anser anser* probably bred within wetter grassland areas in Option A and Rosper Road Pits, with a single male Shoveler *Anas clypeata* present at Rosper Road Pits during the spring suggesting probable breeding by one pair, both are non-qualifying SPA species of interest.
33. Other amber listed breeding species included, a breeding colony of at least 80 pairs of Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* at Rosper Road Pits, with an estimated minimum 35 fledged juveniles present on 16th June 2025. Also there, one pair of Gadwall *Anas strepera* and a single pair of Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*.
34. The most abundant amber listed breeding passerines were Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* (min. 40 territories), Whitethroat *Curruca communis* (15 territories), Dunnock *Prunella modularis* (14 territories) and Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* (9 territories), mostly recorded from areas of scrub, hedgerows and trees. Meadow Pipit (9 territories), a ground nesting species was recorded from open ground, including grassland, in sections AN1 and AS1. Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* (11 territories) was recorded from areas of reed and wet field drains within Option A south, Rosper Road Pits and NE1.
35. Key green listed breeding species (Table 7) included Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (Schedule 1) with one pair present on post-industrial land in section NE1 and Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* (Schedule 1) with two territories in scrub habitat bordering NE1 and one territory in dense scrub at Rosper Road Pits.
36. Other green listed species were well distributed across both Option A and Option B areas from hedgerows, scrub, tree-lines and woodland habitat. The most abundant were Robin *Erithacus rubecula* (min. 30 territories), Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* (min. 21 territories), and Blackbird *Turdus merula* (min. 15 pairs).
37. Summer migrant warblers were also well represented, including Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (min. 16 territories – trees), Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* (min. 10 territories – trees/scrub), Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca* (min. 5 territories - scrub) and Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* (min. 3 territories – reedbed).
38. Non-native species not assessed by BoCC5 (Stanbury *et al* 2021), included Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* with one pair nesting successfully at Rosper Road Pits rearing five young, and Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* with at least 13 pairs in grassland and hedgerow habitats (Table 7).

Diurnal Surveys, Breeding Birds – Green Listed & Species Not Assessed by BoCC5 (March – June 2025)

Table 7. Estimate of Breeding Populations & Breeding Status by Recording Section

Option A & Option B BBS March - June 2025		Option A North	Option A South	Rosper Road Pits	Option B	Chase Hill Road Corridor	Haven Road Ponds	Chase Hill Wood & Northern Extension Corridor	NE1 Laydown Area
UK Conservation Status (BoCC5) Systematic Order follows British Ornithologists Union (BOU 2025)		AN 1,2,3	AS 1-8		B 1-6				
1	Mute Swan			non-br					
2	Tufted Duck			3 P (prob)					
3	Coot			3 P (prob)					
4	Little Grebe			1 P (prob)					
5	Little Ringed Plover								1 P (prob)
6	Little Egret								non-br
7	Grey Heron		non-br						
8	Buzzard		non-br		non-br	non-br		1 P (prob)	
9	Great Spotted Woodpecker					1 P (prob)		1 P (prob)	
10	Green Woodpecker							1 P (prob)	
11	Magpie	1 T (prob)	3 T (prob)		2 T (prob)	2 T (prob)		2 T (poss)	1 T (poss)
12	Jackdaw				non-br				
13	Carrion Crow	non-br	non-br		1 T (prob)	2 T (prob)		non-br	1 T (poss)
14	Raven		non-br						
15	Blue Tit		1 T (conf)		3 T (conf)	5 T (prob)		6 T (prob)	1 T (poss)
16	Great Tit		1 T (prob)		2 T (conf)	4 T (prob)		3 T (prob)	1 T (poss)
17	Swallow	non-br	non-br						
18	Cetti's Warbler			1 T (prob)					2 T (prob)
19	Long-tailed Tit		1 T (conf)		1 T (poss)		1 T (poss)	1 T (poss)	
20	Chiffchaff		2 T (prob)		non-br	7 T (prob)	1 T (prob)	5 T (prob)	1 T (poss)
21	Reed Warbler			1 P (prob)			1 P (prob)		1 P (prob)
22	Blackcap		3 T (poss)			3 T (poss)		3 T (prob)	1 T (poss)
23	Lesser Whitethroat		1 T (prob)		2 T (prob)		1 T (poss)		1 T (conf)
24	Goldcrest							2 T (poss)	
25	Blackbird		4 P (prob)	1 P (prob)	1 P (prob)	4 P (prob)	1 P (prob)	3 P (prob)	1 P (prob)
26	Robin	1 T (poss)	5 T (prob)	1 T (prob)	6 T (prob)	10 T (prob)	1 T (prob)	5 T (prob)	1 T (poss)
27	Pied Wagtail				1 P (poss)	4 P (poss)			
28	Chaffinch		5 T (prob)	1 T (prob)	3 T (prob)	6 T (prob)	1 T (prob)	5 T (prob)	
29	Goldfinch	non-br	2 P (poss)	1 P (prob)		1 P (poss)			
30	Canada Goose			1 P (conf)					
31	Pheasant	1 P (poss)	6 P (prob)		4 P (prob)	1 P (poss)		1 P (poss)	
Key		Humber Estuary SPA Species			SPA Non-Qual. Species of Interest			Schedule 1 Species	
T - territories, P - Pairs		Breeding Status		conf = confirmed		prob = probable		poss = possible	

Nocturnal Surveys, Spring Passage (March to June 2025)

39. During nocturnal surveys four SPA qualifying species including, Lapwing (max. 5, AS2), Mallard (max. 10, RRP), Teal *Anas crecca* (max. 4, RRP) and Shelduck (max. 1, RRP) were recorded on the survey visit on 27th March 2025 (Table 8).
40. One non-qualifying SPA species of interest was recorded, with four Greylag Geese at Rosper Road Pits on 10th April 2025 (Table 8).
41. During the nocturnal survey on 10th April 2025, a single Little Ringed Plover was heard calling in flight unseen over the southern part of Option B (B2/B3).
42. The most abundant species recorded during nocturnal surveys was Black-headed Gull, with many birds from the breeding colony present at Rosper Road Pits on the nocturnal surveys on 10th April 2025 (Figure 6) and on 2nd May 2025.

Table 8. Spring Passage - Humber SPA Species Nocturnal Data by Date and Land Parcel

Visit	N1 - 27/03/2025	N2 - 10/04/2025	N3 - 02/05/2025
Area			
AS1			
AS2	Lapwing 5	Lapwing 1	
AS3			
AS4			
AS5			
AS6	Mallard 4		
AS7			
AS8			
AN1			
AN2			
AN3			
HRP			
NEC			
B1			
B2			
B3			
B4			
B5			
B6			
NE1			
RRP	Shelduck 1 Mallard 10 Teal 4	<i>Greylag Goose</i> 4	Mallard 5
Key - <i>italics</i> = SPA non-qualifying species of interest			
BoCC5 Red Listed		BoCC5 Amber Listed	



Figure 5. Lapwing (AS2) nocturnal survey 10th April 2025



Figure 6. Rosper Road Pits, nocturnal survey 10th April 2025

43. Overall, a total of 69 bird species was recorded from Option A, Option B, Chase Hill Road Corridor, Haven Road Ponds, Chase Hill Wood and the Northern Extension Corridor, NE1 laydown area and Rosper Road Pits, during diurnal and nocturnal surveys covering the spring passage period and breeding bird season during March to June 2025. Lists including scientific names, conservation status and SPA status are presented in Appendices 1-4.

Discussion

44. The proposed Option A and Option B pipeline spurs and Northern Extension areas 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.
45. Diurnal and nocturnal bird surveys during the period March to June 2025, covering varying tidal stages, habitats within the site red line boundary and parts of a buffer zone, and also covering Rosper Road Pits, to provide comparative data for SPA bird species within a coastal wetland habitat, generated ornithological data with an overall combined total of 69 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.
46. Diurnal surveys covering the spring passage period and breeding bird season, identified key areas of distribution and abundance for Humber Estuary SPA bird species and also breeding birds. Within the proposed red line boundary, the greatest number of SPA species was recorded from Option A south, with areas south of Access Road 3 including AS2, AS3, AS4 and AS6 the most frequently utilised land parcels. Outside the site red line

boundary, the greatest number of SPA species was recorded from the wetland at Rosper Road Pits.

47. Within the site red line boundary, Curlew was the most abundant SPA species recorded, with flocks of up to 46 birds foraging in fields within Option A south from late March to mid-April. Similarly, outside the red line boundary, Black-tailed Godwit was the most abundant SPA species, numbers at Rosper Road Pits peaking at 1,037 in late March and subsequently reducing into mid- April.
48. These two species provide good examples of SPA species utilising different habitats during the spring period. Curlew preferring to forage on fields of shorter sward grassland and Black-tailed Godwit foraging and loafing in shallow water. During the spring period these two species eventually move out of the area to breeding areas elsewhere, some Curlew into upland areas of Britain, with many returning to continental Europe, and Black-tailed Godwit of the race *islandica* moving north to breed in Iceland. Apart from Curlew and Black-tailed Godwit, SPA species were recorded in insignificant low numbers during the spring passage period, and with fewer during the core breeding bird season.
49. SPA species were found to be absent from Option B recording areas during the spring, with increasing sward height and density of arable crops precluding successful access for foraging, eight Curlew recorded foraging in a short sward pasture field outside the red line boundary on 16th April highlighting this and also this species preference for pasture.
50. A wide range of breeding bird species was mostly recorded from areas of hedgerows, scrub, trees and woodland within Option A and Option B, Chase Hill Road Corridor and the northern extension area, with few in open areas such as fields and open rough ground. These included Cetti's Warbler, a Schedule 1 protected breeding species, which was mostly recorded from areas of dense scrub habitat around the NE1 laydown area and Rosper Road Pits. Little Ringed Plover, also a Schedule 1 protected breeding species, was recorded on the NE1 laydown area during the spring, with one pair present but the breeding outcome is unknown, as access to this section of the site was not available and observation was undertaken from the perimeter security fence. Use of this section as the construction laydown area would create a loss of breeding habitat for this species which often nests in transient habitats such as areas of post-industrial land. Areas in Option A north which were of restricted access and mostly used for vehicle storage were not used by SPA species and the few breeding bird species noted were confined to limited areas of boundary habitat such as perimeter hedgerows and scrub.
51. Nocturnal surveys showed that few SPA species were present on land parcels during the spring period, with only insignificant low single figure numbers of Lapwing and Mallard recorded.
52. 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).
53. Bird data collated during diurnal and nocturnal surveys during the survey period between March and June 2025 show that very few SPA species were recorded down on site and utilising areas of habitat within the site red line boundary. They were recorded in insignificant numbers and at low frequency, most with no correlation for occurrence with tidal stages on the Humber Estuary. Therefore, habitats present within these areas are not considered functionally linked land and off-site supporting habitat for SPA species during the spring passage period and breeding bird season.
54. However, Rosper Road Pits, which is adjacent to and south of the Option A site red line boundary, provides shallow water for foraging, loafing and roosting for several SPA species, particularly Black-tailed Godwit. This area is considered functionally linked and

off-site supporting habitat for Humber Estuary SPA species during the spring passage period, based on the peak count of 1,037 Black-tailed Godwits on 27th March 2025.

55. Habitats within this location close to the River Humber estuary including, open areas with short sward grassland or vegetation, often with wet areas or pools created by hollows filled with rainwater, open fields such as arable fields of bare earth or stubble, fields of pasture and wet grassland with a short sward are more attractive to SPA waders and wildfowl as foraging, loafing and roosting locations during the autumn passage and winter periods.
56. During these two periods a greater number of SPA species are present on the estuary, and in larger concentrations, with birds moving through on autumn migration and birds remaining throughout the winter. During high water tidal stages on the estuary, when foraging opportunities are temporarily restricted on intertidal areas as they become covered by the tide, SPA bird species will move to suitable habitats nearby, utilising them as foraging, loafing and roosting sites until intertidal foraging areas become available again when the tide recedes.

Mitigation and Recommendations

57. Diurnal surveys covering land areas within Option A and Option B should be undertaken during the autumn passage period from August to October 2025 (inclusive) and during the winter period from November 2025 to March 2026 (inclusive), to determine distribution, abundance and frequency of SPA bird species occurring within these areas.
58. Diurnal surveys should focus on high water periods (+/- 2 hours) on the Humber Estuary, but also incorporate other tidal stages, and also include surveys in differing weather conditions.
59. Nocturnal surveys should be undertaken monthly during the period August 2025 to March 2026, with a key focus on high water periods (+/- 2 hours) on the Humber Estuary, to determine distribution, abundance and frequency of SPA bird species occurring nocturnally within these areas.
60. Agreed access, within the Option A spur along Access Road 3 to view areas AS1 and AN1, to the laydown area NE1 in the northern extension area and also to Rosper Road Pits, should be in place prior to surveys commencing, to enable suitable viewing options and accurate counts of SPA bird species to be made.

References

Bowland Ecology 2021. Identification of Functionally Linked Land supporting SPA waterbirds in the North West of England. NERC361. Natural England.

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Appendix 1

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

Bird Species Recorded March - 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	Pochard	PO		R		EN			<i>Aythya ferina</i>
2	Swift	SI				EN	NT		<i>Apus apus</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	Herring Gull	HG			UK	EN	LC		<i>Larus argentatus</i>
7	Skylark	S.			UK	LC			<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
8	Starling	SG			UK	VU			<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
9	Linnet	LI			UK	LC			<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
10	Yellowhammer	Y.			UK	LC			<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>

Appendix 2

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

Bird Species Recorded March - 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	Shelduck	SU				EN			<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
3	Shoveler	SV		R		LC			<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
4	Gadwall	GA				LC			<i>Mareca strepera</i>
5	Wigeon	WN		R		VU			<i>Mareca penelope</i>
6	Mallard	MA				VU			<i>Anas platyrhynchos</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	Black-headed Gull	BH				VU			<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
12	Common Gull	CM				LC			<i>Larus canus</i>
13	Lesser Black-backed Gull	LB				DD			<i>Larus fuscus</i>
14	Sparrowhawk	SH				VU			<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
15	Marsh Harrier	MR	1	R		LC		A1	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
16	Kestrel	K.				VU	LC		<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
17	Rook	RO				NT	VU		<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
18	Sedge Warbler	SW				NT			<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
19	Whitethroat	WH				LC			<i>Curruca communis</i>
20	Wren	WR				LC			<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
21	Song Thrush	ST			UK	LC			<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
22	Redstart	RT				LC			<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
23	Dunnock	D.			UK	LC			<i>Prunella modularis</i>
24	Meadow Pipit	MP				LC	LC		<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
25	Bullfinch	BF			UK	LC			<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
26	Reed Bunting	RB			UK	LC			<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>

Appendix 3

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

Bird Species Recorded March - 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	Mute Swan	MS				LC			<i>Cygnus olor</i>
2	Tufted Duck	TU				VU	NT		<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
3	Coot	CO				VU			<i>Fulica atra</i>
4	Little Grebe	LG				LC			<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
5	Little Ringed Plover	LP	1	R		LC			<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
6	Little Egret	ET		R		LC			<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
7	Grey Heron	H.				VU			<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
8	Buzzard	BZ				LC			<i>Buteo buteo</i>
9	Great Spotted Woodpecker	GS				LC			<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
10	Green Woodpecker	G.				NT			<i>Picus viridis</i>
11	Magpie	MG				LC			<i>Pica pica</i>
12	Jackdaw	JD				LC			<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
13	Carrion Crow	C.				LC			<i>Corvus corone</i>
14	Raven	RN				LC			<i>Corvus corax</i>
15	Blue Tit	BT				LC			<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
16	Great Tit	GT				LC			<i>Parus major</i>
17	Swallow	SL				VU			<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
18	Cetti's Warbler	CW	1			LC			<i>Cettia cetti</i>
19	Long-tailed Tit	LT				LC			<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
20	Chiffchaff	CC				LC			<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
21	Reed Warbler	RW				LC			<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
22	Blackcap	BC				LC			<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
23	Lesser Whitethroat	LW				LC			<i>Curruca curruca</i>
24	Goldcrest	GC				LC			<i>Regulus regulus</i>
25	Blackbird	B.				LC			<i>Turdus merula</i>
26	Robin	R.				LC			<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
27	Pied Wagtail	PW				LC			<i>Motacilla alba</i>
28	Chaffinch	CH				EN			<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
29	Goldfinch	GO				LC			<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>

Appendix 4

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

Bird Species Recorded March - 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	Canada Goose	CG							<i>Branta canadensis</i>
2	Pheasant	PH							<i>Phasianus colchicus</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