



Appendix 7.3: Bird Report

Client

Bloor Homes

Project

**Toton West, Toton,
Nottingham**

Date

March 2025

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-	Final	OJB / 13.03.25	LFR / 14.03.25

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 FPCR Environment & Design Ltd. were commissioned by Bloor Homes to conduct a suite of surveys on land at a proposed development site in Toton, Nottinghamshire (hereafter referred to as the 'Site'). The Site measures approximately 19.11 ha and is centred on ordnance survey grid reference SK491 355.

Site Location & Context

- 1.2 The Site lies on the northern edge of Toton in Nottingham. It is bounded by a substation, solar farm and arable land to the north and the urban extent of Toton to the south. To the east is Toton Lane and the proposed Toton East development Site. To the west is Toton railway freight yard. The Site itself encompasses several arable field parcels bounded and delineated by hedgerows, treelines and public footpaths and a small copse of trees.

Development Proposals

- 1.3 The Toton West planning application is seeking outline permission for up to 380 residential dwellings and associated open space and infrastructure.

Survey Objectives

- 1.4 The Breeding Bird Survey was carried out between May and June 2022. The objectives of the survey were to:
- Identify the presence of any designated nature conservation sites that support notable breeding bird assemblages within or in the vicinity of the Site.
 - Identify the presence, species, and distribution of breeding birds within the Site.
 - Evaluate the conservation importance of habitats within the Site to local bird populations and identify any areas of ornithological interest.
 - Make recommendations to minimise the potential impact of development and to consider opportunities for additional mitigation, compensation, and enhancement where relevant.
- 1.5 The Wintering Bird Survey was initially carried out between November 2022 and February 2023 before being repeated between November 2024 and February 2025. In both survey suites the objectives of the survey were to:
- Identify the presence and distribution of wintering birds;
 - Evaluate the conservation importance of wintering bird populations present;
 - Evaluate the importance of wintering bird populations and the anticipated residual impacts of the development, and
 - To identify areas of ornithological interest and make recommendations to minimise the potential impact of the scheme.

2.0 LEGISLATION & STATUS

Legislation

- 2.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) is the principal legislation affording protection to UK wild birds. Under this legislation all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law, and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to recklessly or intentionally:
- Kill, injure or take any wild bird.
 - Take, damage, or destroy the nest of any wild bird while in use or being built; or
 - Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- 2.2 Additional protection is afforded to species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, whereby intentional disturbance whilst building or occupying a nest or disturbance of dependent young is also considered an offence.
- 2.3 Certain species have also been identified as Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. The S.41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.
- 2.4 The Site falls within the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (hereafter referred to as 'the LBAP') which identifies several targets for UK priority species that occur within this area, namely: barn owl *Tyto alba*, nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, and an in-development plan for willow tit *Poecile montanus*.

Status

- 2.5 In addition to statutory protection, some bird species are classified according to their conservation status, such as their inclusion on the Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) in the UK:
- 2.6 Red list (high conservation concern) species meet at least one of the following criteria:
- They are globally threatened according to IUCN criteria.
 - Their population has declined rapidly (50% or more) in recent years.
 - They that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.
- 2.7 Amber list (medium conservation concern) species are those that meet at least one of the following criteria:
- They have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe.
 - Their population or range has declined moderately (between 25% and 49%) in recent years.
 - Their population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery.
 - They are rare breeders.
 - They have internationally important or localised populations.
- 2.8 Green list (low conservation concern) species fulfil none of the above criteria.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Desk Study

- 3.1 To compile existing baseline ornithological information the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) was consulted via a BTO Data Report Request. The BTO Data Report collates and analyses species occurrence and abundance for species of conservation and/or statutory importance. Occurrence and abundance data comprises a composite of comprehensive atlas distribution data (2007-2011) to give a baseline which is supplemented by contemporary (2020-2024) records from the BTO BirdTrack and UK Breeding Bird Survey datasets.
- 3.2 All results in the BTO Data Report, especially at the larger spatial resolutions, are interpreted with respect to the habitats present on site and the corresponding likely breeding and wintering assemblages present.
- 3.3 The following statutory and non-statutory organisations were consulted for data regarding designated sites for which birds are a qualifying feature:
- Natural England via the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website
 - Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre (NBGRC)

Field Survey

- 3.4 The results of the desk study detailed below and the habitat walkover, as detailed in the Ecological Appraisal, identified suitable habitat for breeding and wintering birds so further survey was recommended.
- 3.5 FPCR have been undertaking ecological surveys of the Site, or sections thereof, since 2022. These have included several surveys for breeding and wintering birds that were conducted in accordance with now-superseded guidance on the number and timing of surveys required to inform Ecological Impact Assessments, but for which the methodology undertaken for each survey occasion was aligned to that described for the most recent surveys outlined in the next section.
- 3.6 To date two breeding bird surveys have been undertaken across the whole site and a third breeding bird survey visit covered the westernmost field compartment only. Surveys were undertaken between dawn and 11:00am in early May, late May, and June 2022. Three wintering bird surveys were undertaken across the whole site from dawn in November 2022, January 2023, and February 2023.
- 3.7 Wintering bird surveys across the whole Site were updated by way of a suite of four surveys, undertaken from dawn until early afternoon, monthly between November 2024 and February 2025 inclusive.
- 3.8 The survey methodology employed was in accordance with the protocol specified in the best practice guidelines – Bird Survey Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Impacts¹. All birds encountered (seen or heard) were recorded on a field survey plan using standard BTO species codes and symbols for bird activities and to denote activity, sex, and age where appropriate.

¹ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2023). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.1.1. <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> [Accessed: 26.06.24]

Breeding status was inferred for each species based on the sixteen categories implemented by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee (EOAC)² and their corresponding definitions, in addition to four additional codes to classify non-breeding species as birds recorded away from suitable breeding habitat, summering non-breeders, passage migrants, or flyovers. Birds were considered to be holding a territory and therefore likely to be utilizing the Site for breeding activities if they were displaying breeding behaviours, such as: singing, nest building, food carrying or territorial defence. If birds did not display such behaviours, e.g. they were only recorded flying over the Site, they were considered non-breeders.

- 3.9 A route was mapped out prior to the survey being undertaken, paying particular attention to any linear features, such as hedgerows and ditches, and other features such as scrub. Bird surveys were not undertaken in unfavourable conditions, such as heavy rain or persistent strong wind (conditions which can negatively affect the results). Table 1 provides details of the survey dates and weather conditions.

Table 1: Survey Dates & Conditions

Survey	Date	Cloud Cover (%)	Rain	Wind (Beaufort)	Visibility
Breeding Bird Surveys					
BBS 1 Whole Site	20.05.22	70	None	2 – Light Breeze	Very Good
BBS 2 Whole Site	30.05.22	95	~20 mins fine drizzle at end of survey	2 – Light Breeze	Excellent
BBS 3 Western Field	27.06.22 (western field only)	95	Infrequent, ~5 minute very fine drizzle showers	2 – Light Breeze	Very Good
Wintering Bird Surveys					
WBS 1 Whole Site	08.11.22	20	None	3 – Gentle Breeze	Very Good
WBS 2 Whole Site	27.01.23	90	None	1 – Light Air	Excellent
WBS 3 Whole Site	07.02.23	0	None	1 – Light Air	Excellent
WBS 4 Whole Site	18.11.24	90	None	1 – Light Air	Excellent
WBS 5 Whole Site	04.12.24	80	None	0 – Calm	Good
WBS 6 Whole Site	29.01.25	5	None	3 – Gentle Breeze	Excellent
WBS 7 Whole Site	18.02.25	0	None	1 – Light Air	Very Good

² Sharrock, J.T.R (1973) Ornithological Atlases. Auspicius 5:13-15.

Species & Assemblage Assessment

- 3.10 The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance on ecological impact assessment assesses nature conservation importance within a geographical context³. To attain each level of importance, an ornithological resource or one of the features (species population or assemblage of species) should meet the criteria set out in Table 2. In some cases, professional judgment may be required to increase or decrease the allocation of importance, based upon local knowledge.
- 3.11 The Site has also been assessed against the selection criteria for Local Wildlife Site (LWS) for Nottinghamshire⁴ on a number of criteria set out for breeding birds. LWSs are recognised by central government as an important tool in promoting sustainable development and protecting biodiversity.
- 3.12 The recent county annual bird report, The Birds of Nottinghamshire – Annual Report for 2017⁵, was consulted to inform the assessment. The abundance of species referred to by these reports is classified by the following criteria:
- Very Rare – Ten or fewer records ever;
 - Rare – Between 11 and 50 records ever;
 - Scarce – Between 51 and 300 records ever;
 - Uncommon – Resident species with a very limited distribution in the county or non-resident species usually recorded in very limited numbers;
 - Fairly Common – Resident or migrant species likely to be seen in modest numbers during most visits to suitable habitat;
 - Common – Resident or migrant species likely to be seen in reasonable numbers on all visits to suitable habitat.

Table 2: Evaluation Criteria

Nature Conservation Value	Examples of Selection Criteria
International	A species which is part of the cited interest of an SPA and which regularly occurs in internationally or nationally important numbers. A species present in internationally important numbers (>1% of international population).
National	A species which is part of the cited interest of a SSSI and which regularly occurs in nationally or regionally important numbers. A nationally important assemblage of breeding or over-wintering species. A species present in nationally important numbers (>1% UK population). Rare breeding species (<300 breeding pairs in the UK).

³ http://www.cieem.net/data/files/Publications/EcIA_Guidelines_Terrestrial_Freshwater_and_Coastal_Jan_2016.pdf

⁴ Crouch, N.C. (2018) Nottinghamshire LWS Handbook – Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites in Nottinghamshire. Part 2A – Local Wildlife Sites selection criteria: species. 2nd Edition. Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre, Nottingham.

⁵ Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers (2021) The Birds of Nottinghamshire Annual Report for 2017.

Nature Conservation Value	Examples of Selection Criteria
Regional	Species listed as being of principal importance under NERC S.41 which are not covered above, and which regularly occurs in regionally important numbers. Species present in regionally important numbers (>1% of regional population). Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within a region. Species on the BoCC Red List & which regularly occur in regionally important numbers.
County	Species listed as being of principal importance under NERC S.41 which are not covered above and which regularly occurs in county important numbers Species present in county important numbers (>1% of county population). Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within a county, or are listed as being of principal importance under S41 of the NERC Act. A site designated for its county important assemblage of birds (e.g. a SINC Site). Species on the BoCC Red List & which regularly occur in county important numbers.
Local	Other species of conservation interest (e.g. all other species on the BoCC Red and Amber List or species listed as being of principal importance under NERC S.41 which are not covered above) regularly occurring in locally sustainable populations. Sustainable populations of species which are rare or scarce within the locality.
Site	Species that are common and widespread

4.0 RESULTS & EVALUATION

Desk Study

Designated Sites

- 4.1 No statutory sites of international importance were identified within the applicable zones of influence for the Site.
- 4.2 A single national statutory designation lies just beyond 2km of the Site; Attenborough Gravel pits SSSI. One Statutory designations of County value lies within 1km of the Site; Toton Fields LNR, which lies immediately adjacent to the south western edge of the site.
- 4.3 Whilst LNRs rarely cite individual species as a reason for designation, a number of nationally scarce birds are included in the combined management plan for the adjoining LNRs within the relevant search area including lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, willow tit, cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, skylark *Alauda arvensis*, grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia*, fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, redwing *Turdus iliacus*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*, spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, tree sparrow *Passer montanus*, grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*, linnet *Linaria cannabina*, lesser redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*, yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*, and starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.
- 4.4 The Attenborough Gravel Pits SSSI designation cites the breeding bird assemblage associated with lowland open water and associated margins and overwintering populations of shoveler *Spatula clypeata* and bittern *Botaurus stellaris* as significant. The Site is 2.2km from the Site and separated by developed areas, and habitats present within the Site are of negligible suitability for either species given the absence of open water or other wetland habitats.

Bird Records

- 4.5 In the case of this Site, relevant squares comprise six 1km squares (monads), four 2km squares (tetrads), and two 10km squares.

- 4.6 During 2007–2011, 101 species with breeding evidence and 138 species in winter were recorded in the vicinity of the site at various spatial scales. Breeding season figures include 11 Schedule 1 species, five Annex 1 species and 22 BoCC Red list species. Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus* is a rare breeding bird and was recorded in the same 20km or 50km squares as the site during 2007–2011. The atlas data of breeding birds within the relevant tetrads included 32 confirmed breeding species of which 13 are afforded legislative protection in the UK and/or included on the BoCC Red or Amber lists of species of conservation concern. Records of a further 18 probable breeding species were returned within the relevant tetrads which included a further ten protected and/or notable species, 13 species were returned as possible breeding species six of which were notable, and the remaining 38 species returned had no breeding evidence recorded within the relevant tetrads. The atlas data of wintering birds within the relevant tetrads identified 87 species as being present within one or more of the relevant tetrads.
- 4.7 During the breeding seasons of 2020–2024, 157 species were recorded in the vicinity of the Site at various spatial scales. These included 32 Schedule 1 species, 21 Annex 1 species and 39 BoCC Red list species. Contemporary data for breeding birds identified two breeding bird species within 1km, greylag goose *Anser anser* and Egyptian goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*, for which breeding was confirmed, three species; mute swan *Cygnus olor*, great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, and sand martin *Riparia riparia*, where breeding was probable within the relevant tetrads, and three species; Cetti's warbler *Cettia cetti*, greenfinch *Chloris chloris*, and reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, where possible breeding was noted within relevant tetrads. Seventy-seven of the species for which records were returned in the contemporary breeding data were noted as present within relevant tetrads though no evidence of breeding submitted to accompany these records. A further 72 species not recorded in close proximity to the Site were returned from larger spatial scales (>10km). Contemporary data for wintering birds did not include any species records at monad level though 78 species have been recorded in winter from within the relevant tetrads.
- 4.8 A significant proportion of the records returned relate to species associated with wetland habitats for which suitable habitat is not available within the Site e.g. waterfowl, herons, waders, and kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, presumably relating to Attenborough Gravel Pits SSSI and adjacent former gravel workings to the southeast part of which falls within the relevant tetrads. In the absence of appropriate breeding and/or wintering habitat it is considered unlikely that such species would utilise the Site. Accounting for the species for which suitable habitat is present the apparent assemblage includes mainly common and widespread generalist tit, warbler, thrush, and finch species found ubiquitously throughout suitable habitats in the region. In addition to these, some more specialised species are known from the relevant tetrads primarily farmland birds more obligately associated with arable farmland such as grey partridge *Perdix perdix*, skylark *Alauda arvensis*, linnet *Linaria cannabina*, and yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*, though also scarcer species from scrub and woodland habitats including breeding records of grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia* and wintering records of marsh tit *Poecile palustris*, tree sparrow *Passer montanus*, and lesser redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*.

Field Surveys

Breeding Bird Surveys

- 4.9 A total of 30 bird species have been recorded across the breeding bird survey occasions completed to date in May and June 2022 (for complete list see Appendix A). Of these, six were recorded overflying the Site only and are not considered likely to be impacted by the proposed development as they were not recorded interacting with the habitats present.
- 4.10 Of the remaining 24 bird species, 11 meet the criteria of at least one of the following pieces of legislation/classifications: Schedule 1 of the WCA; Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006; and BoCC Red or Amber lists and are referred to as 'notable' species.
- 4.11 Based on the evidence collected to date across an incomplete survey suite, three species were confirmed as breeding on-site; magpie *Pica pica*, long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*, and blackbird *Turdus merula*, all of which are common and widespread species both nationally and locally and are of low conservation concern (BoCC Green-listed).
- 4.12 A further seven species are regarded as probable breeders based on the evidence collected to date including three notable species: whitethroat *Curruca communis*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, and dunnock *Prunella modularis*, in addition to four species of low conservation concern: carrion crow *Corvus corone*, chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, and goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*.
- 4.13 Eleven species were considered possible breeders on the Site based on singing males being present and/or individuals observed in suitable nesting habitat. This included a further five notable species: stock dove *Columba oenas*, woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, greenfinch *Chloris chloris*, and yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*, in addition to six species of low conservation concern. Three species were recorded as foraging within the Site but were classed as non-breeders on the evidence collected within the Site. For sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* and house sparrow *Passer domesticus* potential breeding sites within the Site are limited with adjacent woodlands and residential areas respectively offering more optimal locations. There is suitable nesting habitat within the Site for starling *Sturnus vulgaris* though available cavities are limited to a few mature tree standards and breeding off-site consequently considered more likely.
- 4.14 Table 3 provides a summary of the notable species recorded during the breeding bird surveys and their respective breeding statuses on-site, whilst Figure 1 shows their approximate distributions.

Table 3: Notable Breeding Bird Species & Their Recent Status in Nottinghamshire

Species	Legal/ Conservation Status	Peak Count/ No. of Survey Occasions Recorded	Recent Status in Nottinghamshire
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List	4 / 2	Fairly Common resident breeder
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	17 / 3	Common resident breeder
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber List	1 / 1	Common resident breeder
Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber List	5 / 2	Common summer migrant breeder
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List	7 / 2	Common resident breeder

Species	Legal/ Conservation Status	Peak Count/ No. of Survey Occasions Recorded	Recent Status in Nottinghamshire
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List NERC S.41	27 / 2	Common resident breeder
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	1 / 2	Common resident breeder
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List NERC S.41	10 / 2	Common resident breeder
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	6 / 3	Common resident breeder
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	6 / 2	Common resident breeder
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red List NERC S.41	3 / 2	Fairly Common resident breeder

Wintering Bird Surveys

2022-23 Surveys

- 4.15 A total of 24 bird species were recorded across the three wintering bird survey occasions (for complete list see Appendix B). Of these, four species were recorded overflying the Site only and are therefore considered to not be reliant on the Site for overwintering and thus not anticipated to be impacted by the proposed development as they do not interact with the habitats present.
- 4.16 Of the remaining 20 species recorded, ten are considered notable under the criteria outlined in Paragraph 4.9 above: stock dove, woodpigeon, wren, starling, song thrush, redwing *Turdus iliacus*, fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, house sparrow, dunnock, and greenfinch. The other ten species recorded overwintering at the Site are common and widespread generalists of low conservation concern consisting mostly of corvids, tits, and finches found ubiquitously across a range of urban and rural habitats.
- 4.17 Figure 2 illustrates the approximate distributions of the notable species recorded during the first suite of wintering bird surveys.

2024-25 Surveys

- 4.18 A total of 23 bird species were recorded across the most recently undertaken series of wintering bird surveys, comprising four survey occasions (for complete species list see Appendix C). Of these, four species were recorded overflying the Site only and were therefore not considered likely to be impacted by the proposed development as they do not interact with the habitats present.
- 4.19 Of the remaining 19 species recorded, nine meet the criteria of at least one of the pieces of legislation/classifications discussed above and are hence considered 'notable' species. These are summarised in Table 4, with approximate distributions illustrated in Figure 3.
- 4.20 Recorded species were largely consistent between the 2022-23 and 2024-25 survey suites with only minor differences typically relating to common and widespread generalists. The only notable species not recorded in the most recent suite that had been previously was fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, no notable species were recorded in 2024-25 that hadn't been in the earlier survey suite.

Table 4: Notable Wintering Bird Species & Their Recent Status in Nottinghamshire

Species	Legal/ Conservation Status	Peak Count/ No. of Survey Occasions Recorded	Recent Status in Nottinghamshire
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List	2 / 2	Fairly Common resident
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	536 / 4	Common resident
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List	3 / 1	Common resident
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List NERC S.41	26 / 3	Common resident
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	5 / 3	Common resident
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber List WCA Sch.1	42 / 3	Common winter migrant
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List NERC S.41	22 / 3	Common resident
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	7 / 4	Common resident
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	6 / 3	Common resident

Bird Survey Results Description

- 4.21 The actively cropped arable fields supported did not support any breeding species across the surveys undertaken and were only used infrequently as a foraging resource by roving flocks of woodpigeon, small family groups of magpies, and on one occasion a small flock of starling. Similarly, cropped arable fields supported a very limited assemblage of wintering birds. Notable species were restricted to moderate numbers of woodpigeon (peak count 156 but numbers typically <100) with flocks also containing small numbers of stock dove, in addition to more occasional use by small flocks of redwing and starling. Other species of low conservation utilising these habitats where carrion crow and magpie both in small numbers.
- 4.22 Hedgerows and the vegetated ditch across the eastern half of the Site hosted several resident and migratory breeding species comprising mostly common and widespread taxa including common thrush, tit, warbler, and finch species. In addition, these areas supported a variety of notable species including stock dove, woodpigeon, whitethroat, wren, song thrush, house sparrow, dunnock, greenfinch, and a small number of yellowhammers – the only farmland specialist species recorded across breeding and wintering seasons. These habitats supported most of the recorded species overwintering at the Site. Notable species recorded from within these habitats were: stock dove, woodpigeon, wren, starling, song thrush, redwing, fieldfare, house sparrow, dunnock, and greenfinch. These notable species are common and widespread and the populations of each recorded were typically low. A peak count of 56 fieldfares is more noteworthy though such numbers were only present on a single survey occasion suggesting usage by larger numbers is transient rather than the Site forming a significant winter resource for the species locally.

Evaluation

Individual Species

- 4.23 Table 5 summarises the 19 bird species recorded within the Site that are of at least **Local** nature conservation importance during the breeding season.

- 4.24 Bird species of at least Local importance are identified as such based on their BoCC listing where this highlights the species to be of conservation interest but where these do not occur in county important numbers within the site. Notable bird species recorded as migrants, summering non-breeders, or flyovers are also discounted as they were not seen to utilise any of the habitats on site, and therefore will likely be largely unaffected by the proposed changes to land use.
- 4.25 Other bird species recorded utilising the habitats within the Site were either recorded in smaller numbers and/or considered common and widespread species nationally and/or locally. These species are recognised as being of only Site importance and not included in Table 5.

Table 5: Breeding Bird Species of Local Nature Conservation Importance or Higher

Name		Status		Nature Conservation Value
		WCA Sch1	NERC S41	
BoCC Red List				
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		+	Local
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		+	Local
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			Local
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		+	Local
BoCC Amber List				
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			Local
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>			Local
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	+		Local
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		+	Local

Breeding Assemblages

- 4.26 Arable fields and their associated margins support a negligible breeding bird assemblage, with no species present as confirmed, probable, or possible breeders within the arable field centres, and such areas were only used as transient foraging sites by common and widespread generalists encountered commonly throughout the region. There is, however, limited similar agricultural habitats available in the wider landscape and the Site is therefore considered to represent a limited resource for breeding birds locally, with patterns of usage likely to depend on the respective crop rotations across the wider farmland area. The relative isolation of arable habitats is somewhat offset by the limited number of species reliant on these habitats for breeding and is thus considered of **Local** nature conservation importance for its breeding bird assemblage.
- 4.27 The assemblage recorded from the hedgerow and vegetated ditch habitats is relatively limited and none of the constituent species' populations are significant in number or scarcity at larger spatial scales though the presence of yellowhammer is considered somewhat notable, as this species is a specialist of arable landscapes, but the numbers present are very low. It is therefore considered that the breeding bird assemblage associated with the hedgerows and the vegetated ditch is of **Site** nature conservation importance.

Wintering Assemblages

- 4.28 Arable habitats supported a limited assemblage of wintering birds with no populations of above site-level significance with large numbers of woodpigeon present on a single survey but

observed to be roaming across the wider landscape and utilising the Site only as part of a network of interconnected fields left to winter maize stubbles. The limited extent of arable habitats locally though increases the relative importance of the Site in a local context over typical arable landscapes despite the limited wintering bird assemblage that appears to utilise the Site, and it is accordingly considered of **Local** nature conservation importance for its wintering bird assemblage.

- 4.29 The hedgerows and the vegetated ditch supported most of the recorded species overwintering at the Site. Notable species recorded from within these habitats were: stock dove, woodpigeon, wren, starling, song thrush, redwing, fieldfare, house sparrow, dunnoek, and greenfinch. These notable species common and widespread and the populations of each typically low a peak count of 56 fieldfares is more noteworthy such numbers were only present on a single survey occasion suggesting usage by larger numbers is transient rather than the Site forming a significant winter resource for the species locally. Given the absence of any specialised species and the small population sizes of the recorded species, the wintering bird assemblage associated with the hedgerows and vegetated ditch is considered of **Site** nature conservation importance.

5.0 DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The following preliminary impact assessment is based on the results of the surveys undertaken to date and the results of the BTO consultation. Although the numbers of breeding surveys conducted so far falls short of those prescribed in best practice guidance, the habitats which comprise the Site are uncomplex and have relatively high species detectability compared to other habitats and as such it is considered that the surveys completed provide a representative sample of the assemblages and populations present.
- 5.2 The loss of the arable fields will reduce the available foraging habitat within the Site though these areas were rarely utilised by birds in either the breeding or wintering seasons. Only woodpigeon was recorded from within these habitats in any significant numbers. The limited extent of arable habitats locally though increases the relative importance of the Site in a local context over typical arable landscapes such the losses of these areas is expected to have **Minor** adverse effects on the species recorded at the local level.
- 5.3 The majority of the perimeter hedgerows are to be retained under the Illustrative Combined Masterplan however, the increase in disturbance from the new residential development is likely to displace species less tolerant of anthropogenic disturbance such as winter thrushes and yellowhammer which will likely result in **Minor Adverse** impacts on these species. All of the other species recorded are relatively tolerant of anthropogenic disturbance and are regularly found in vegetated gardens and thus any adverse impacts on these species are expected to be **Negligible**.
- 5.4 Given the results of the BTO consultation and the findings of the breeding and wintering birds surveys completed to date, it is recommended that further breeding bird surveys be undertaken to ensure surveys cover a sufficiently broad temporal range in both seasons and account for early breeding and late wintering species currently not covered by field surveys to allow for a robust assessment of the potential development to be made.

APPENDIX A: BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS 2022 & EOAC CRITERIA FOR CATEGORISATION OF BREEDING STATUS

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 20.05.24	Survey 2 30.05.24	Survey 3 27.06.24 (western field only)	Conservatio n Status & Protection	Breeding Status
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1			Not Listed	Possible H
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia f. domestica</i>		2 flyovers		Green List	Non- breeder F
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		4 + 2 flyovers	3 flyovers	Amber List	Possible S,H,F
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	17 + 1 flyover	9 + 3 flyovers	15 + 1 flyover	Amber List	Possible S,H,UH,F
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1		1 flyover	Green List	Possible S,H,F
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			2 flyovers	Green List WCA Sch.1	Non- breeder F
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	1 flyover	1 flyover	1 flyover	Amber List	Non- breeder F
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		2 flyovers		Red List NERC S.41	Non- breeder F
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	2 flyovers			Amber List	Non- breeder F
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		1 flyover		Green List	Non- breeder F
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1	Amber List	Non- breeder UH
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	5 + 2 flyovers	9 + 2 flyovers	5	Green List	Confirmed FL,H,UH,F
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	2 + 2 flyovers		2 flyovers	Green List	Probable A,H,F
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	2	3	1	Green List	Possible H
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2	1		Green List	Possible S,H
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		5		Green List	Confirmed FL,P,H
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	3	1	1	Green List	Probable T,S,H
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		2		Green List	Possible S,H
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	5	3		Amber List	Probable A,N,T,S,H
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	3	7		Amber List	Probable T,S,H

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 20.05.24	Survey 2 30.05.24	Survey 3 27.06.24 (western field only)	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	5 flyovers	27		Red List NERC S.41	Non-breeder UH,F
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	1		Amber List NERC S.41	Possible S,H
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	3	10	5	Green List	Confirmed FF,FL,A,P,S, H
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	4	3	2	Green List	Probable T,P,S,H
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		5	10	Red List NERC S.41	Non-breeder UH
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	6	4	1	Amber List NERC S.41	Probable T,S,H
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1		1 + 1 flyover	Green List	Possible S,H,F
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2	6		Red List	Possible S,H
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	9 + 2 flyovers	1 + 1 flyover	4	Green List	Probable A,S,H,F
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	2	3		Red List NERC S.41	Possible S,H
Total No. Species	30	20	22	16		

Breeding Status evidence can be broken down into four sections, each with their own codes, as defined by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee:

Confirmed breeder

- DD** – distraction display or injury feigning
- UN** – used nest or eggshells found from this season
- FL** – recently fledged young or downy young
- ON** – adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest
- FF** – adult carrying faecal sac or food for young
- NE** – nest containing eggs
- NY** – nest with young seen or heard

Probable breeder – Evidence accumulated during the survey indicates that the bird species is breeding on site.

- P** – pair in suitable nesting habitat
- T** – permanent territory (defended over at least 2 survey occasions)
- D** – courtship and display
- N** – visiting probable nest site
- A** – agitated behaviour
- I** – brood patch of incubating bird (from bird in hand)
- B** – nest building or excavating nest-hole

Possible breeder – Evidence accumulated during the survey indicates that the bird species could be breeding on site, but the evidence is less conclusive than that obtained for probable breeders.

- H** – observed in suitable nesting habitat
- S** – singing male

Non-breeder

- F** – flying over
- M** – migrant
- U** – summering non-breeder
- UH** – observed in unsuitable nesting habitat

APPENDIX B: WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS 2022-23

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 08.11.22	Survey 2 27.01.23	Survey 3 07.02.23	Conservation Status & Protection
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	1 + 2 flyovers	4 flyovers		Amber List
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	4	100 + 3 flyovers	156 + 6 flyovers	Amber List
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	7 flyovers	3 flyovers	4 flyovers	Amber List
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	1 flyover			Red List
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		2 flyovers		Amber List
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	1			Green List
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	7	1 + 1 flyover	3 + 1 flyover	Green List
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	3		2 flyovers	Green List
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	4	4	9	Green List
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1	4	3	Green List
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			10	Green List
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		2		Amber List
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>			1	Red List NERC S.41
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			2	Amber List NERC S.41
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	7 + 1 flyover	13	11 flyovers	Amber List WCA Sch.1
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2	4	6	Green List
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	9	56		Red List WCA Sch.1
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		6	7	Green List
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	5		5	Red List NERC S.41
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	3	1	Amber List NERC S.41

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 08.11.22	Survey 2 27.01.23	Survey 3 07.02.23	Conservation Status & Protection
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		1 flyover		Green List
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	6	1	1 flyover	Green List
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		6		Red List
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	5	7 + 8 flyovers	4 + 4 flyovers	Green List
Total No. Species	25	16	18	16	

APPENDIX C: WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS 2024-25

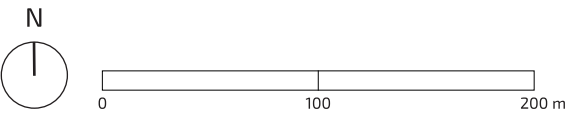
Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 18.11.24	Survey 2 4.12.24	Survey 3 29.1.25	Survey 4 18.2.25	Conservation Status & Protection
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia f. domestica</i>			2 flyovers		Green List
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		1	2		Amber List
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	14 + 2 flyovers	86 + 1 flyover	536	15 + 1 flyover	Amber List
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	3 flyovers	11 flyovers	4 flyovers		Amber List
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1		1	Green List
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	1				Green List
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	14 + 1 flyover	23	18	6	Green List
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>				1 + 14 flyovers	Green List
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		1	2 + 5 flyovers	2 + 1 flyover	Green List
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	2	5	5	1	Green List
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	4	2	7	1	Green List
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		1	1		Green List
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	1		1		Green List
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	3				Amber List
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		26 + 2 flyovers	2	3	Red List NERC S.41
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	5	1	1		Amber List NERC S.41
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	1	3	42		Amber List WCA Sch.1
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		3 flyovers			Red List WCA Sch.1
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	14	6	22		Red List NERC S.41
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	7	6	2	1	Amber List NERC S.41

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 18.11.24	Survey 2 4.12.24	Survey 3 29.1.25	Survey 4 18.2.25	Conservation Status & Protection
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1	2	33	2	Green List
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		1	6	1	Red List
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	8	6	3		Green List
Total No. Species	23	14	18	18	11	



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Notes:

- Site Boundary
- BoCC Red List Species
 - House Sparrow
 - Starling
 - Yellowhammer
 - Greenfinch
- BoCC Amber List Species
 - Dunnock
 - Stock Dove
 - Whitethroat
 - Song Thrush
 - Sparrowhawk
 - Woodpigeon
 - Wren
- Additional Protections
 - NERC Species of Principal Importance
 - Schedule 1 Species
 - LBAP Species (underlined)

date 14/03/25 drwn/chkd OJB

client Bloor Homes

project

Toton West

title BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN 1:3,500 @ A3

number -

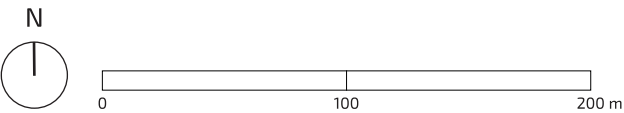
rev

FIGURE 1



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Notes:

Site Boundary

BoCC Red List Species

- FF Fieldfare
- HS House Sparrow
- SG Starling
- GR Greenfinch

BoCC Amber List Species

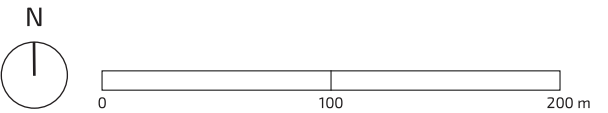
- D Dunnock
- SD Stock Dove
- RE Redwing
- ST Song Thrush
- WP Woodpigeon
- WR Wren

date		drwn/chkd
14/03/25		OJB
client		
Bloor Homes		
project		
Toton West		
title		scale
WINTER BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN -		1:3,095 @ A3
DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES		
number	rev	
FIGURE 2	-	



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- BoCC 5 Red List Species**
- HS** House Sparrow
 - S** Skylark
 - SG** Starling
 - GR** Greenfinch
- BoCC 5 Amber List Species**
- D** Dunnock
 - MP** Meadow Pipit
 - SD** Stock Dove
 - RE** Redwing
 - ST** Song Thrush
 - WP** Woodpigeon
 - WR** Wren
- Additional Protections**
- Blue circle** NERC Species of Principal Importance
 - Red circle** Schedule 1 Species

date 14/03/25 drwn/chkd JTB / LFR

client **Bloor Homes**

project **Toton West, Toton Nottingham**

title **WINTER BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN - DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES** scale 1:3,300 @ A3

number rev

FIGURE 3

FPCR Environment and Design Ltd

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