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ES Addendum – Appendix 7.6: Supplemental Breeding Bird Report

Client

Bloor Homes

Project

**Toton West,
Nottinghamshire**

Date

December 2025

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Rev	Issue Status	Prepared/Date	Approved/Date
-	Final	OJB / 20.10.25	LFR / 12.11.25
A	Final	LFR / 04.12.25	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following Breeding Bird Report has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd on behalf of the Bloor Homes as a supplemental to the Environmental Statement of Toton West, Nottingham (Central OS Grid Ref: SK 491 355) herein referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.2 This document should be read in conjunction with the other ecological documents prepared for this application, comprising the Ecology and Nature Conservation chapter of the Environment Statement (Chapter 7), Appendix 7.3: Bird Report, and other associated Appendices.

Report Aims & Objectives

- 1.3 This report has been prepared to supplement the survey results and subsequent impact assessment of the proposed development on breeding and wintering birds. As the previous surveys for breeding birds at the Site were undertaken in 2022 considerable time has elapsed such that these results are not considered sufficiently recent to inform planning decisions in accordance with CIEEM guidelines. Update surveys have therefore been undertaken to revalidate the findings of the previous survey and identify any changes in the breeding bird assemblages and/or populations of constituent species thereof that may necessitate revisions to the original impact assessment and/or proposed mitigation, compensation, and enhancement measures.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 Previous surveys for breeding birds were conducted in accordance with now-superseded guidance on the number and timing of surveys required to inform Ecological Impact Assessments, but for which the methodology undertaken for each survey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 outlined for the most recent surveys outlined in the next section.
- 2.2 The survey methodology employed was in accordance with the protocol specified within current best practice guidelines¹. 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.
- 2.3 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 utilising 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. These criteria and associated definitions are outlined in Appendix A.
- 2.4 A route was mapped out prior to the surveys being undertaken, paying particular attention to any linear features, such as hedgerows and watercourses, and other features such as ponds and scrub. To provide inter-survey temporal variation between surveys to account for variation

¹ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group 2023. *Bird Survey Guidelines for Assessing Ecological impacts* v.1.1.1. Available at: <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> [Accessed: 10.12.24]

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

in species' detectability throughout the day, the starting location and direction of walking were stratified across the six surveys.

- 2.5 A total of six surveys were undertaken, spanning the season in which the majority of breeding activity occurs for typical species, and no species with vastly differing breeding cycles are reasonably expected to occur at the Site following the consultation results and assessment of the habitats present. To provide a proportionate level of accuracy in the determination of the population status of breeding birds in the survey area, dawn survey visits were undertaken in early April, late April, May, June, and July, and a single dusk survey was completed in early July 2025, commencing an hour prior to sunset and finishing an hour after sunset.
- 2.6 The dusk survey was undertaken during failing light and continued into darkness to account for temporal variations in species' detectability being timed to coincide with peak activity of likely crepuscular and/or nocturnal species and identify important roost sites should any be present. Surveyors used Pulsar Axion 2 XG35 thermal imaging monoculars to observe birds.
- 2.7 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
BBS 1	01.04.25	10	Dry	3 – Gentle Breeze	Very Good
BBS 2	30.04.25	20	Dry	1 – Light Air	Good
BBS 3	13.05.25	0	Dry	3 – Gentle Breeze	Very Good
BBS 4	10.06.25	100	Dry	3 – Gentle Breeze	Good
BBS 5 - dusk	02.07.25	0	Dry	1 – Light Air	Excellent
BBS 6	08.07.25	0	Dry	0 – Calm	Excellent

3.0 RESULTS

- 3.1 A total of 29 bird species were recorded within the survey area during the six survey occasions (for complete list see Appendix B). Of these, three species were recorded overflying the Site only and therefore were considered to be non-breeders on-Site. As such, these are not considered likely to be impacted by the proposed development as they do not interact with the habitats present.
- 3.2 Of the 26 species recorded utilising on-site habitats, 12 appear on one or more of the following and are hereafter referred to as 'notable species':
- Schedule 1 of WCA;
 - BoCC Red or Amber lists;
 - Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006; and/or
 - Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- 3.3 The notable species recorded during surveys are summarised in Table 2 with their respective distributions illustrated in Figure 1

Table 2: Notable Breeding Species Recorded

Species	Legal / Conservation Status	Peak Count / No. of Survey Visits	EOAC Breeding Status
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List	2 / 1	Possible
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	61 / 5	Possible
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber List	2 / 1	Non-breeder
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List NERC S.41	2 / 1	Possible
Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber List	1 / 2	Possible
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List	5 / 5	Probable
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	1 / 2	Possible
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List NERC S.41	4 / 1	Non-breeder
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	3 / 4	Possible
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber List	1 / 1	Possible
Bullfinch <i>Oyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	2 / 1	Possible
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	4 / 4	Possible

Breeding Bird Assemblage Description

- 3.4 The majority of bird species recorded on site are typical of the habitats present in a regional context, being heavily influenced by the intensive arable agricultural cultivation of the land and proximity of existing residential development. The actively cropped arable field interiors support a limited assemblage of breeding birds, with the exception of skylark *Alauda arvensis*, of which two individuals were recorded on the sixth survey occasion though were noted defending territories over adjacent arable land to the north of the Site indicating use may be restricted to foraging individuals this season. Small numbers of other notable species including stock dove *Columba oenas*, woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, rook *Corvus frugilegus*, and meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis* also utilise these areas for foraging.
- 3.5 The majority of birds recorded were associated with the hedgerows and boundary features, in particular the interfaces with off-site areas of scrub and woodland to the northeast, southwest, and west of the Site. These habitats provide suitable breeding and foraging habitat for the range of common and widespread generalist and woodland edge species recorded including a range of common tit, finch and warbler species. This assemblage also includes a range of notable, but also common and widespread species that are typical of the habitats present such as wren, song thrush and dunnock. The central hedgerows offered more limited suitability for this assemblage due to their intensively managed and sparse nature, and few birds were recorded using these features when compared with boundary hedgerows.

4.0 DISCUSSION

- 4.1 **The species recorded were largely consistent between the 2022 and 2025 survey suites with only minor differences in assemblage composition typically relating to common and widespread generalists or species** most likely breeding within adjacent suburban areas for which there is little to no suitable nesting habitat within the Site such as collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto* and notable starling *Sturnus vulgaris* that were noted on-site in 2022 but not in 2025. Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* was not recorded in 2025 but was encountered on a single survey in 2022 and is likely to still use the Site as part of a wider foraging territory though the infrequency of records in 2022 and absence of this species in 2025 suggests the Site is not used frequently. Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* was also present during the breeding season of 2022 but not in 2025 most likely because of intensive management of interior hedgerows precluding any nesting attempts and the differing state of the crop rotation limiting the availability of foraging resources.
- 4.2 Several species were recorded in 2025 that were not observed during the 2022 survey suite which included both notable rook *Corvus frugilegus* and non-notable raven *Corvus corax* foraging within recently sown arable fields early in the season though the presence of both species was restricted to the first survey occasion only. Similarly, arable fields supported two skylarks and a single meadow pipit on the final survey occasion though given the date neither observation is considered to relate to breeding birds but rather opportunistic foraging as varying parcels change in suitability based on cropping regime. Both goldcrest *Regulus regulus* and the notable species bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* were recorded within perimeter scrub; associated with the non-native conifer stand in the northeast of the Site and the dense scrub adjacent to the western boundary respectively.
- 4.3 The breeding bird assemblage was largely unchanged from the previous surveys with the only significant difference being the loss of yellowhammer as a possible breeding species. Numbers of the constituent species within this assemblage also remained low. The updated surveys align with the previous assessment of the farmland bird assemblage within the Site being of local level importance based on the limited availability of such habitats at that spatial scale.
- 4.4 Similarly, the assemblage associated with the hedgerows and woody perimeter vegetation was unchanged from the previous surveys aside for the presence of goldcrest and bullfinch. In the case of goldcrest, suitable habitat within the Site represents a small proportion of the total area of suitable nesting habitat for the species extending northwards through the substation compound and neighbouring private residence beyond. Bullfinch was only noted within the Site on one survey occasion but was noted within the off-site scrub and woodland to the west and southwest of the Site of several survey occasions indicating that the adjacent features are of importance to this species with little suitable habitat on-site. These findings are such that no change is made to the assessment of the breeding bird assemblage associated with the hedgerows and boundary vegetation as being of below local level importance.
- 4.5 **As there have been no significant changes to the breeding bird assemblages within the Site nor any of the populations of the constituent species of which they are comprised, the scale and magnitude of any effects on breeding birds resulting from the proposed development are similar considered unchanged from the previous assessment within the Environmental Statement.** The mitigation and enhancement measures proposed therein are consequently considered to remain sufficient to mitigate any potential significant adverse effects through the avoidance of impacts to perimeter vegetation which supported a more

diverse breeding bird assemblage than similar on-site features and provision of additional structural planting within the green infrastructure to benefit these species. The provision of a selection of nest boxes including a mix of integrated and standalone designs will provide more nesting opportunities for birds than are currently available within the Site. Provisions should be made for suburban species recorded along the southern boundary of the Site included starling and house sparrow.



BoCC 5 Red List Species

HS House Sparrow

S Skylark

GR Greenfinch

BoCC 5 Amber List Species

BF Bullfinch

D Dunnock

MP Meadow Pipit

SD Stock Dove

WH Whitethroat

RO Rook

ST Song Thrush

WP Woodpigeon

WR Wren

Additional Protections

 Schedule 1 Species

 NERC Species of Principal Importance

date
09/12/25

drwn/chkd
OJB / LFR

client
Bloor Homes

project
**Toton West,
Nottingham**

title
**BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN
- DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES**

scale
1:3,500 @ A3

number

rev

FIGURE 1

-

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APPENDIX A: EOAC CRITERIA FOR CATEGORISATION OF BREEDING STATUS

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: 2025 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 01.04.25	Survey 2 29.04.25	Survey 3 13.05.25	Survey 4 10.06.25	Survey 5 02.07.25 dusk	Survey 6 08.07.25	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>						1	Not Listed	Possible H
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				2 + 1 flyover		2 flyovers	Amber List	Possible H,F
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	8	15	5	4 + 2 flyovers		61 + 6 flyovers	Amber List	Possible H,UH,F
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				1 flyover		2 flyovers	Amber List	Non- breeder F
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	1 flyover						Green List WCA Sch.1	Non- breeder F
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	5	1	4	4		1	Green List	Non- breeder UH
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	2						Amber List	Non- breeder UH
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	50	32	40	3		1	Green List	Non- breeder UH
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	1						Green List	Non- breeder UH
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		2	2	3			Green List	Probable B,H
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2	1	3				Green List	Possible H
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						2	Red List NERC S.41	Possible H

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 01.04.25	Survey 2 29.04.25	Survey 3 13.05.25	Survey 4 10.06.25	Survey 5 02.07.25 dusk	Survey 6 08.07.25	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	2						Green List	Possible H
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	2	2	2	1			Green List	Probable T,S,H
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		1	1				Green List	Possible S,H
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		1	1				Amber List	Possible S,H
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		1	1				Green List	Probable T,S,H
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	4	1	4	5		2	Amber List	Probable A,T,S,H
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		1				1	Amber List NERC S.41	Possible S,H
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	1	2		5		2	Green List	Possible H
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1	5	1	4			Green List	Confirmed FF,T,S,H
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>						4	Red List NERC S.41	Non- breeder UH
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	3	1	1			Amber List NERC S.41	Possible S,H
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>						2 flyovers	Red List NERC S.41	Non- breeder F
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>						1	Amber List	Possible H

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 01.04.25	Survey 2 29.04.25	Survey 3 13.05.25	Survey 4 10.06.25	Survey 5 02.07.25 dusk	Survey 6 08.07.25	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				1			Green List	Possible H
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2						Amber List NERC S.41	Possible H
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2	2		4		2 + 1 flyover	Red List	Possible S,H,F
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			2	1 flyover		5 flyovers	Green List	Possible H,F
Total Species	29	15	15	13	14	0	15		

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