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BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

At

East Lancs Paper Mill

Cricket Pitch Relocation Site
Church Street East
Radcliffe
M26 2PG

NGR: SD 79632 07371

Prepared for:	Christopher Wright, Morris Homes Northern Ltd
Written by:	Harry Fox, UES Graduate Ecologist
Approved by:	Kathryn James, UES Senior Project Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K James'.

Date:	21 st August 2024
UES reference:	UES03854/09



CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Author, surveyors, qualifications and experience	4
1.2 Survey objectives	4
1.3 Proposed development.....	4
1.4 Structure of the report.....	4
2 METHODOLOGY	5
2.1 Desk study.....	5
2.2 Field survey	5
2.3 Survey limitations	6
3 RESULTS	7
3.1 Desk study.....	7
3.2 Habitat description.....	7
3.3 Field survey	7
4 EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	11
4.1 Evaluation of results and impacts	11
4.2 Mitigation and compensation	11
5 CONCLUSION	13
6 REFERENCES.....	14
APPENDICES.....	15
Appendix 1 – Site plan.....	15
Appendix 2 – Survey results	16
Appendix 3 – Species list.....	17
Appendix 4 – Statutory and planning context.....	18



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

United Environmental Services (UES) Ltd. has been commissioned by Morris Homes Northern Ltd to undertake a breeding bird survey of the cricket pitch relocation site at East Lancs Paper Mill, Radcliffe. The breeding bird survey has been undertaken to discharge condition 18 of planning permission 67597 issued by Bury Council:

Breeding bird surveys for the areas to be used for the relocated cricket club facility shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority as part of the first reserved matters application affecting this area. The survey shall include appropriate mitigation measures and the approved scheme shall be implemented prior to the relocated cricket club facility hereby approved, being brought into use.

Reason. In order to ensure that no harm is caused to a Protected Species pursuant to policies EN6 – Conservation of the Natural Environment and EN6/3 – Features of Ecological Value of the Bury Unitary Development Plan and Section 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The objective of the surveys is to establish the status of the current bird assemblage on site, which will inform any required mitigation and / or compensation. The survey includes a desk-based study, site assessment and breeding bird survey visits.

The cricket pitch relocation site is located within a largely urban area in Radcliffe, Greater Manchester. The land parcel has an area of approximately 5.5ha and comprises large areas of marshy grassland which is being encroached by grey willow *Salix cinerea* and osier *Salix viminalis* scrub. A small pond is present to the north of the site which is heavily choked by common reed *Phragmites australis* and a large waterbody is present past the northwestern site boundary within the main development site. A small block of woodland is present along the western site boundary. The habitats onsite offer a range of nesting and foraging opportunities for a variety of bird species.

A total of forty-five bird species were recorded during the surveys, seventeen of which were assessed as confirmed or likely breeding within 50m of the survey boundary and a further six species assessed as possibly breeding. Most of the species observed are considered to be common and widespread species, although some are of conservation concern.

The majority of activity recorded was associated with the woodland along the western site boundary, as well as the damp areas and willow scrub throughout site. Areas of woodland, marshy grassland and willow scrub will be lost in order to facilitate the development; however, provided suitable mitigation and compensation measures are incorporated into the development design, it is considered unlikely that the development will have a significant impact upon breeding birds.

In addition, the development proposals provide an opportunity to secure the long term retention and management of wetland habitats onsite, which without intervention, would succeed into scrub. As such, it is considered that with effective enhancement and management, the site will likely improve in quality for birds in the long term.

Without mitigation, site clearance and vegetation removal could result in the direct loss of nests, any individuals within the nests and of available nesting territories if conducted during the breeding season. Mitigation measures, as detailed in section 4.2.1, should be adhered to reduce this risk to negligible level.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Author, surveyors, qualifications and experience

This report is compiled and written by Harry Fox BSc MRes, UES Graduate Ecologist. Other surveyors include:

- Toby Hart BSc MCIEEM PIEMA, UES Managing Director. Toby is an experienced ecologist and ornithologist, with significant experience in the ecological industry. Toby has the knowledge, skills and experience to conduct a robust breeding bird survey.
- Tom Kenwright BSc MSc ACIEEM, UES Senior Ecologist
- Bethany Dineley BSc, UES Graduate Ecologist
- James Stubbs BSc MRes, UES Graduate Ecologist

This report has been verified by Kathryn James BSc MRes MCIEEM, UES Senior Project Manager.

1.2 Survey objectives

UES was commissioned in March 2024 to conduct site surveys which include the following activities:

- Conduct a desk-based study to determine the site's suitability for and level of use by different bird species
- Assess the suitability of the site for use by breeding birds
- Undertake a suite of field surveys to determine the use of the site by breeding bird species
- Determine how these populations may be affected by any proposed development to inform any required mitigation / compensation measures

1.3 Proposed development

The proposed development is for the creation of a cricket pitch, clubhouse and associated facilities.

1.4 Structure of the report

This report sets out the methodology, results, recommendations and compensation measures in relation to breeding birds. Recommendations are in line with statutory legislation and planning policy objectives.

The report should be read in conjunction with appendices 1 to 4, which provide visual representations of the survey results and statutory and planning context.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk study

A search for statutorily protected sites within 10km of the site has been undertaken through the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC).

Information was requested from the Greater Manchester Local Record Centre (GMLRC) for records of birds and designated sites relating to birds within a 2km radius of the site in 2022 as part of Tetra Tech's bird habitat assessment report (see report reference 784-B038963). UES was not commissioned to undertake a further record request for the proposed development site.

2.2 Field survey

The survey methodology broadly followed the BTO / JNCC / RSPB breeding bird survey technique. This technique records the location and movements of individual birds present within a defined survey area.

Six survey visits were undertaken between March and August 2024, in order to undertake population territory mapping of key bird species found onsite. The surveys were started within one hour of sunrise, in order to observe the period of peak bird activity.

Bird surveys were not undertaken in disadvantageous weather conditions, such as heavy rain or strong winds, which may otherwise negatively affect the survey results. Table 1 below provides a summary of the survey dates and weather conditions.

Table 1 – Survey dates and weather conditions

SITE VISIT N ^o	DATE	Temp (°C)	CLOUD COVER (%)	RAIN	WIND (0-12)	VISIBILITY
1	08/04/24	14	90	Light (20 minute duration)	1	Clear
2	30/04/24	10	20	None	3	Clear
3	15/05/24	14	100	None	1	Clear
4	28/05/24	12	95	Light (15 minute duration)	2	Moderate
5	13/06/24	14	50	None	1	Clear
6	30/07/24	18	20	None	0	Clear

On each survey visit, a pre-determined transect route (see Appendix 1 – Site plan) was walked throughout the survey area by the surveyor, equipped with binoculars. The surveyor stopped at points during the transect, where a good vantage point of the site was possible; this was done to enable the surveyor to observe bird behaviours. The starting point and route direction were varied during each survey to reduce survey bias.

During the survey visits, the following details were recorded:

- Bird species, numbers, age and sex (where possible)
- Bird behaviour (e.g. singing, calling, feeding, territorial aggression)
- Any associations with particular habitat types or locations



These registrations were recorded on a map using the recognised BTO species codes (see Appendix 2 – Survey results).

The data collected was then assessed and bird species were categorised according to the following definitions:

- Confirmed breeding – includes species for which territories were positively identified as a result of the number of registrations, the location of an active nest or the presence of recently fledged young.
- Likely breeding – includes a pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in the breeding season, agitated behaviour and / or alarm calls from adults suggesting the probable presence of a nest or young nearby. Behaviour observed on an insufficient number of occasions to confirm the presence of a territory.
- Possible breeding – includes species observed in the breeding season in suitable nesting habitat with a singing male present or breeding calls heard.
- Non-breeding – flyover species observed but suspected to be still on migration or summering non-breeders.

The field survey data was then analysed in relation to the conservation status of each species recorded onsite. Species conservation status is based on the following recognised lists:

- Global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Extinct, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened
- Birds of Conservation Concern 5 List (BoCC): Red, Amber or Green

The data was also analysed against the following articles of legislation:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (WCA): Schedule 1 species
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC): Section 41 species
- The EU 'Birds Directive': Annex 1 species
- UK Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) species

2.3 Survey limitations

The surveys were undertaken under appropriate weather conditions at an appropriate time of year. Dense scrub is present in a portion of the site; however, suitable access routes were created along the survey transect to ensure that the whole site was covered to allow a robust survey. No significant limitations were encountered during the surveys.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Desk study

There are two statutorily designated sites within 2 km of the site: Chapelfield Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located approximately 1.07km southwest of the site and Hollins Vale LNR is located approximately 1.72km northeast of the site. There are no statutorily protected sites designated for their bird populations within 10km of site.

Various species, including several NERC section 41, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 1 species, and species listed on the most recent Birds of Conservation Concern “red and amber” lists were returned within 2km of site. See Tetra Tech’s bird habitat assessment report (see report reference 784-B038963) for further details.

3.2 Habitat description

The cricket pitch relocation site at East Lancs Paper Mill is located within a largely urban area in Radcliffe, Greater Manchester. The land parcel has an area of approximately 5.5ha and comprises large areas of marshy grassland which is being encroached by willow scrub. A small pond is present to the north of the site which is heavily choked by common reed and a large waterbody is present past the northwestern site boundary within the main development site. A small block of woodland is present along the western site boundary.

The site sits within a pocket of green space around The River Irwell (400m southeast of the site boundary) with areas of marshy grassland, broadleaved woodland and dense scrub present in the immediate surrounding area. The wider landscape is comprised primarily of residential, commercial and industrial buildings. Areas of higher quality habitat are present further afield including mixed farmland, which is well connected by mature hedgerows and tree lines. In addition, several large parks and green spaces are present throughout the wider landscape comprising broadleaved woodland, grassland, large lakes, rivers and ponds.

3.3 Field survey

A total of 45 species were recorded during the field surveys, including:

- 7 Red List and 15 Amber List species (BoCC¹)
- 6 Section 41 species (NERC)²

All observations and a full species list of the surveys are provided within Appendix 2 – Survey results and Appendix 3 – Species list.

3.3.1 Confirmed / likely breeding species

Of the forty-five bird species recorded, seventeen were assessed as confirmed or likely breeding within 50m of the redline boundary. Of these seventeen species, the following nine are considered to be of conservation concern:

¹ Birds of Conservation Concern 5

² Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 – Section 41



Table 2 – Confirmed / likely breeding species

BTO CODE	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS
Breeding			
SD	Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber (BoCC)
WR	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber (BoCC)
RB	Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber (BoCC); Sec41 (NERC)
Likely breeding			
WP	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber (BoCC)
WW	Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber (BoCC)
WH	Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber (BoCC)
D.	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber (BoCC); Sec41 (NERC)
GH	Grasshopper warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Red (BoCC); Sec41 (NERC)
GR	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red (BoCC)

Although only four stock doves were recorded across all surveys, they were observed nesting within an open-fronted box affixed to a tree in the small northern wood. Stock doves are therefore confirmed to be breeding onsite.

Wrens were one of the most recorded species, identified singing during all of the surveys. A peak count of sixteen singing males was recorded during the second May survey. As wrens were recorded throughout the site and were heard frequently on every survey, they are considered to be breeding onsite.

Reed buntings were heard singing on several surveys with a peak count recorded during the June survey. Additionally, a pair was observed gathering nesting material. Reed buntings are therefore considered to be breeding onsite.

Singing woodpigeons were recorded during several surveys and flushed from trees on several occasions; therefore, it is considered likely that they are breeding onsite.

Willow warblers were heard singing on all surveys, with a peak count of ten singing males recorded during the second May survey; therefore, it is considered likely that they are breeding onsite.

Whitethroats were identified on several surveys but in low numbers, with a peak count of two singing males during the first May survey. Due to the suitability of the habitat and their presence during several surveys, it is considered likely that they are breeding onsite.

Dunnocks were recorded on several surveys in low numbers, with a peak count of two individuals during the April survey. Due to the suitability of the habitat and their presence during several surveys, it is considered likely they are breeding onsite.

Grasshopper warblers were heard singing on several surveys across the season, with a peak count of three singing males in July. Due to the presence of multiple male territories onsite and the suitability of the habitat, it is considered likely that grasshopper warblers are breeding onsite.

Singing greenfinches were recorded across all surveys (except early May), with a peak count of four singing males. Due to the suitability of the habitat and their presence during several surveys, it is considered likely they are breeding onsite.

3.3.2 Possible breeding

A further six species were assessed as possible breeding within 50m of the site; the following two species are considered to be of conservation concern or are protected by UK legislation:

Table 3 – Possible breeding species

BTO CODE	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS
ST	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber (BoCC); Sec41 (NERC)
BF	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber (BoCC); Sec41 (NERC)

Individual song thrushes were recorded during the surveys, although usually beyond the site boundary and associated with the woodland to the southeast. Some individuals were seen/heard within the areas of woodland onsite and suitable habitat is also present onsite; therefore, it is considered that song thrushes could possibly be breeding onsite.

A single individual bullfinch was recorded within the southern willow scrub during the July survey and suitable habitat is present onsite; therefore, it is considered that bullfinch could possibly be breeding onsite.

3.3.3 Non-breeding species

Other species of conservation concern which were recorded during the surveys but are not considered to be breeding are:

Table 4 – Non-breeding species

BTO CODE	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS
BH	Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber (BoCC)
K.	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber (BoCC)
LB	Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber (BoCC)
MA	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber (BoCC)
MH	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber (BoCC)
RT	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Amber (BoCC)
HM	House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Red (BoCC)
SI	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Red (BoCC)
HG	Herring gull	<i>Larus Argentatus</i>	Red (BoCC); Sec41 (NERC)
H.	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red (BoCC); Sec41 (NERC)
SG	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red (BoCC); Sec41 (NERC)

Black-headed, lesser black-backed and herring gulls were recorded as fly-over species irregularly. These species are not considered to be utilising the site.

Kestrels and buzzards were observed commuting and foraging oversite on several occasions or perching within trees. However, it is considered unlikely that they are using the site for breeding purposes.

Mallards were observed on several occasions flying over site and are likely associated with the River Irwell and the pond to the west of site.



Moorhen were heard within the small pond adjoining the northern wood and were initially deemed to be possibly breeding within the pond. However, upon inspection, the pond is shallow and choked with reeds and as such is largely unsuitable. It is considered more likely that moorhen are associated with the larger waterbody to the west of site.

A single redstart was recorded during the second April survey. No other observations were made during the surveys and no breeding behaviour was recorded; therefore, it is considered this species was in passage and not habitually using the site.

House martins were observed on several occasions. During most visits, house martins were recorded commuting and/or foraging over the areas of marshy grassland and scrub. Despite this, house martins are not considered to be breeding onsite.

Swifts were occasionally observed commuting/foraging high above the site. However, it is considered unlikely that they are using the site for breeding purposes.

House sparrows were observed on the northwest corner of the site multiple times, but they are considered to be associated with the gardens and houses to the north and only foraging onsite.

Starlings were recorded as fly-over species on a single occasion. This species is not considered to be utilising the site.

The remaining non-threatened / unprotected species and their breeding status can be found in Appendix 3 – Species list.



4 EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Evaluation of results and impacts

A total of forty-five bird species were recorded during the surveys, seventeen of which were assessed as confirmed or likely breeding within 50m of the survey boundary and a further six species assessed as possibly breeding.

The majority of activity recorded was associated with the areas of woodland along the northern and western site boundaries, as well as the damp areas and willow scrub throughout site. Areas of woodland, marshy grassland and willow scrub will be lost in order to facilitate the development; however, provided suitable mitigation and compensation measures are incorporated into the development design, it is considered unlikely that the development will have a significant impact upon breeding birds.

Most of the species observed using the woodland are considered to be common and widespread species, although some are of conservation concern. Given the proposed retention of a large area of woodland and scrub to the west of site as part of the wider development within the site ownership boundary, and the presence of suitable habitat in the immediate surrounding landscape, it is considered that sufficient opportunities will be available for woodland species displaced as a result of the proposed development. In addition, native tree and hedgerow planting, as detailed in section 4.2.2, will provide some compensation for the loss of woodland onsite.

Although areas of marshy grassland and willow scrub will be lost, the development proposals provide an opportunity to secure the long term retention and management of wetland habitats to the east of site, as detailed in section 4.2.2. The site is already subject to scrub encroachment and without management the wetland habitats would succeed into scrub. As such, it is considered that with effective enhancement and management, the site will likely improve in quality for birds in the long term.

4.2 Mitigation and compensation

4.2.1 Site clearance and vegetation removal

Without mitigation, site clearance and vegetation removal could result in the direct loss of nests, any individuals within the nests and of available nesting territories if conducted during the breeding season.

Site clearance and vegetation removal (including enabling works) should be carried out outside of the breeding bird season and should not be undertaken from March to August inclusive. If this is not possible, a targeted breeding bird nest scoping survey should be conducted no more than 48 hours in advance of works commencing, or a suitability qualified ecologist appointed to oversee the works. If no nesting birds are recorded, then site clearance can proceed. If nesting birds are recorded an exclusion zone should be established around the nest(s), the size of which is dependent upon the species. No works will be allowed within this buffer zone until the chicks have fledged and the relevant areas are confirmed free of nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist.



4.2.2 Landscaping and habitat creation

A landscape masterplan has been prepared by Barnes Walker (M3477-SD-01-V10), which includes the following landscaping proposals:

- Retention and enhancement of the existing swamp habitat and its open water to the north of the site
- Retention and enhancement of the existing marshy grassland and scrub habitats to the east of site
- Wet wildflower grasslands
- Native tree planting
- Species-rich native hedgerow planting
- Ornamental planting around the clubhouse and associated carpark

By retaining the existing wetlands and scrub habitats it will ensure that suitable habitat is available for the populations of bird species recorded onsite. These will be supplemented with additional planting using native species linking areas of established habitat to form a mosaic of native habitats providing a rich, varied and ecologically diverse naturalistic landscape. Management of these habitats will ensure that suitable habitats are available for a variety of bird species in the long term. Further details are provided in UES' landscape and ecology management plan (see report reference UES03854/15).

Bird boxes will be provided onsite to provide an enhancement in the availability of nesting opportunities. Bird boxes will be installed on a north facing aspect in close proximity to good quality habitat for birds such as hedgerows, tree lines, woodland, waterbodies and scrub. The proposed make and model of bird box has been chosen to target species likely to be present on site or within the local area. If the proposed model of bird box is not available due to stock shortages, an alternative model can be used instead. All proposed changes must be discussed and agreed with the project ecologist to ensure that they provide similar nesting opportunities. The use of woodcrete or woodstone boxes will be prioritised due to their durability and longevity. The following bird boxes will be installed onsite:

- Schwegler 1B bird nest box (26mm, 32mm and oval entrances) – affixed to semi-mature / mature trees which are due to be retained within the proposed development site, at a height of 3-6m, and should be positioned on the northern or eastern aspect of the selected trees, thus avoiding the strongest sunlight and wettest winds.

Once installed, the bird boxes should not require any management in the long-term. See UES' landscape and ecology management plan (see report reference UES03854/15) for mapped locations.



5 CONCLUSION

A total of forty-five bird species were recorded during the surveys, seventeen of which were assessed as confirmed or likely breeding within 50m of the survey boundary and a further six species assessed as possibly breeding.

The majority of activity recorded was associated with the areas of woodland along the northern and western site boundaries, as well as the damp areas and willow scrub throughout site. Areas of woodland, marshy grassland and willow scrub will be lost in order to facilitate the development; however, provided suitable mitigation and compensation measures are incorporated into the development design, it is considered unlikely that the development will have a significant impact upon breeding birds.

In addition, the development proposals provide an opportunity to secure the long term retention and management of wetland habitats onsite, which without intervention, would succeed into scrub. As such, it is considered that with effective enhancement and management, the site will likely improve in quality for birds in the long term.

Without mitigation, site clearance and vegetation removal could result in the direct loss of nests, any individuals within the nests and of available nesting territories if conducted during the breeding season. Mitigation measures, as detailed in section 4.2.1, should be adhered to reduce this risk to negligible level.



6 REFERENCES

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Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2004). *Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Birds, Version August 2004*. JNCC, Peterborough.

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Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended).



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site plan



East Lancs Paper Mill (Cricket Pitch Relocation Site), Radcliffe

Site plan

- Survey boundary
- Transect route
- Observation points
- Scrub
- Woodland
- Pond



Appendix 2 – Survey results



Breeding Bird Survey 1

**Site: East Lancs Paper Mill
(Cricket relocation site),
Radcliffe
NGR: (SD) 79632 07371
Author: Harry Fox
Date: 08/04/2024**



Survey 1 - 08.04.24

Temperature : 14°C
Rain : Light (20 mins)
Wind: 1
Cloud cover : 90%
Visibility: Clear

Notes:

Reed buntings - Pair seen together in grassland near the eastern boundary.

Moorhen - Calling within the small pond present on site.

- KEY:**
- Aggressive behaviour
 - Alarm call
 - Calling
 - Gathering food
 - Collecting nesting materials / Nest found
 - Direction of flight
 - Singing
 - Female
 - Male
 - Survey boundary

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Breeding Bird Survey 2

**Site: East Lancs Paper Mill
(Cricket relocation site),
Radcliffe
NGR: (SD) 79632 07371
Author: Harry Fox
Date: 30/04/2024**



Survey 2 - 30.04.24

Temprature : 10°C
Rain : None
Wind: 3
Cloud cover : 20%
Visibility: Clear

Notes:

Reed buntings - Pair seen together collecting nesting materials in southern scrub.

Robins - Aggressive behavior exhibited by a pair of robins in the western woodland; a nest is likley present.

Long-tailed tit - Aggresive behaviour exhibited while carrying food.

KEY:

	Aggressive behaviour		Singing
	Alarm call		Female
	Calling		Male
	Gathering food		Survey boundary
	Collecting nesting materials / Nest found		
	Direction of flight		

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Breeding Bird Survey 3

Site: East Lancs Paper Mill
(Cricket relocation site),
Radcliffe
NGR: (SD) 79632 07371
Author: Harry Fox
Date: 15/05/2024



Survey 3 - 15.05.24

Temprature : 14°C
Rain : None
Wind: 1
Cloud cover : 100%
Visibility: Clear

Notes:

KEY:

	Aggressive behaviour		Singing
	Alarm call		Female
	Calling		Male
	Gathering food		Survey boundary
	Collecting nesting materials / Nest found		
	Direction of flight		

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Breeding Bird Survey 4

Site: East Lancs Paper Mill
(Cricket relocation site),
Radcliffe
NGR: (SD) 79632 07371
Author: Harry Fox
Date: 15/05/2024



Survey 4 - 28.05.24

Temperature : 12°C
Rain : Light (15 mins)
Wind: 2
Cloud cover : 95%
Visibility: Moderate

Notes:

Wren - seen collecting food within the scattered scrub in
the centre of the grassland.

KEY:

	Aggressive behaviour		Singing
	Alarm call		Female
	Calling		Male
	Gathering food		Survey boundary
	Collecting nesting materials / Nest found		
	Direction of flight		

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Breeding Bird Survey 5

Site: East Lancs Paper Mill
(Cricket relocation site),
Radcliffe
NGR: (SD) 79632 07371
Author: Harry Fox
Date: 13/05/2024



Survey 5 - 13.06.24

Temperature : 14°C
Rain : None
Wind: 1
Cloud cover : 50%
Visibility: Clear

Notes:

Chaffinch - Males fighting within the northern woodland and a pair observed within the adjoining scattered scrub.

Long-tailed tit - Large group within the northern woodland.

Robin - Alarm calling within the western woodland in the same location this behaviour was previously observed.

KEY:

	Aggressive behaviour		Singing
	Alarm call		Female
	Calling		Male
	Gathering food		Survey boundary
	Collecting nesting materials / Nest found		
	Direction of flight		

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Breeding Bird Survey 6

Site: East Lancs Paper Mill
(Cricket relocation site),
Radcliffe
NGR: (SD) 79632 07371
Author: Harry Fox
Date: 30/07/2024



Survey 6 - 30.07.24

Temperature : 18°C
Rain : None
Wind: 0
Cloud cover : 20%
Visibility: Good

Notes:

Lesser whitethroat - Male and female pair seen in grassland near the northeast site boundary.

KEY:

	Aggressive behaviour		Singing
	Alarm call		Female
	Calling		Male
	Gathering food		Survey boundary
	Collecting nesting materials / Nest found		
	Direction of flight		

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Appendix 3 – Species list

BTO CODE	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS	BREEDING STATUS
CG	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber(BoCC)	Confirmed
GJ	Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber(BoCC)	Confirmed
MA	Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber(BoCC), Sec41(NERC)	Confirmed
TU	Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green(BoCC)	Confirmed
PH	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green(BoCC)	Confirmed
RL	Common whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Amber(BoCC)	Likely
CK	Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber(BoCC)	Likely
FP	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber(BoCC)	Likely
SD	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber(BoCC), Sec41(NERC)	Likely
WP	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green(BoCC)	Likely
L.	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green(BoCC)	Likely
CA	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green(BoCC)	Likely
SH	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green(BoCC)	Likely
KT	Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green(BoCC)	Likely
BZ	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green(BoCC)	Likely
LO	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red(BoCC)	Likely
TO	Grasshopper warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Red(BoCC), Sec41(NERC)	Likely
K.	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber(BoCC), Sec41(NERC)	Possible
PE	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber(BoCC), Sec41(NERC)	Possible
MG	Lesser whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Green(BoCC)	Possible
JD	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green(BoCC)	Possible
C.	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green(BoCC)	Possible
RN	Greater spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green(BoCC)	Possible
BT	Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber(BoCC)	Not breeding
GT	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber(BoCC)	Not breeding
S.	Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber(BoCC)	Not breeding
SL	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber(BoCC)	Not breeding
LT	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber(BoCC)	Not breeding
CC	Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Green(BoCC)	Not breeding
GH	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Green(BoCC)	Not breeding
BC	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green(BoCC)	Not breeding
WH	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Green(BoCC)	Not breeding
GC	Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green(BoCC)	Not breeding
WR	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green(BoCC)	Not breeding
TC	Ringed-necked parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	None	Not breeding
SG	House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Red(BoCC)	Not breeding
B.	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Red(BoCC)	Not breeding
R.	Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red(BoCC), Sec41(NERC)	Not breeding
HS	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red(BoCC), Sec41(NERC)	Not breeding
D.	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Amber(BoCC)	Not breeding
PW	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green(BoCC)	Not breeding

MP	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green(BoCC)	Not breeding
CH	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Green(BoCC)	Not breeding
LI	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green(BoCC)	Not breeding
GO	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red(BoCC), Sec41(NERC)	Not breeding

Key:

EX/CR/EN/VU/NT: Extinct, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened on the Global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Red/Amber/Green: Red, Amber or Green listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern 5 List

Sch1.1/1.1A/A1/1.2: Schedule 1 part 1, 1 part 1A, A1 or 1 part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Sec41: Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Species of principle importance for conserving biodiversity in England)

Ann1: Listed on Annex I of The Birds Directive

RBBP: Listed as one of the species that the UK Rare Breeding Bird Panel reports on; breeding records of these species should be shared with the relevant county recorder



Appendix 4 – Statutory and planning context

Ecological assessments

Ecological assessments play an important part within the planning context; they include an initial assessment which highlights any specific interests of a site. From the initial site assessment, the surveyor assesses the suitability of habitats within the site to support protected species and makes recommendations for further survey works if required. The following paragraphs provide a brief interpretation of the legislative protection that is relevant to the findings of this report.

Birds

All wild birds, their nests and young are protected throughout England and Wales by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is illegal to kill, injure or take any wild bird, or damage or destroy the nest or eggs of breeding birds. The legislation applies to all bird species, common and rare.

In addition to the protection afforded to all wild birds, more vulnerable species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act receive enhanced protection when breeding. Schedule 1 species, including their dependent young, are protected from intentional or reckless disturbance whilst at or near the nest, in addition to the protection afforded the more common species.

The NERC Act offers further protection to the nests of some species that regularly re-use their nests, even when the nests are not in use.

The leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK have reviewed the population status' of 244 UK bird species. "Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the Red List for Birds" is the most recent publication summarising their findings. Three lists, Red, Amber and Green, have been produced based on the most up-to-date evidence available and criteria include conservation status at global and European levels and, within the UK: historical decline, trends in population and range, rarity, localised distribution and international importance. These lists are a valuable resource when considering conservation priorities.

The National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF) provides guidance on the interpretation of the law in relation to the natural environment and development.

Planning policy

National Planning Guidance is issued in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF). The most relevant section is 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

Key relevant principles stated in 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment are;

- 174.** Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
 - b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
 - c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
 - d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
 - e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
 - f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

- 179.** To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
- a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity⁶¹; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation⁶²; and
 - b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity
- 180.** When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:
- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
 - b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
 - c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁶³ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
 - d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.