

East Midlands Gateway Phase 2 (EMG2)

Document DCO 6.9D/MCO 6.9D

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Technical Appendices

Appendix 9D

Bird Report

October 2025

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The East Midlands Gateway Phase 2
and Highway Order 202X and The East Midlands Gateway
Rail Freight and Highway (Amendment) Order 202X

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East Midlands Gateway 2

ES Appendix 9D

BIRD REPORT

September 2025

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Rev	Issue Status	Prepared / Date	Reviewed / Date	Approved / Date
-		OJB / 28.11.24	JDH / 28.02.2025	SJA / 04.03.2025
A	Final			JDH / 27.06.2025
B	Final	RJC / 26.09.25		SJA / 26.09.25

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 FPCR Environment & Design Ltd. were commissioned by SEGRO to undertake bird surveys in relation to the EMG2 Project.
- 1.2 The main objective of this assessment was to establish levels of activity across the site to confirm potential impacts and mitigation requirements.
- 1.3 This document should be read in conjunction with the other ecological documents prepared for the EMG2 Environmental Statement which includes the Environmental Statement itself, the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal¹, protected species reports for badger², bats³, invertebrates⁴, otter and water vole⁵ and reptiles⁶, the shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment for the River Mease SAC⁷, and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculations⁸.

Development Proposals

- 1.4 The EMG2 Project comprises the following three main components:

DCO Application (DCO Scheme)

- EMG2 Works – Logistics and advanced manufacturing development located on the EMG2 Main Site south of East Midlands Airport and the A453, and west of the M1 motorway. The development includes HGV parking and a bus interchange, together with the provision of a Community Park and an upgrade to the EMG1 substation;
- Highways Works – works to the highway network: the A453 access junction works, significant improvements at Junction 24 of the M1, works to the wider highway network including the Active Travel Link, Hyam's Lane Works, L57 footpath upgrade, A6 Kegworth Bypass/A453 Junction Improvements and finger farm roundabout improvements, together with other works;

MCO Application (MCO Scheme)

- EMG1 Works – Additional warehousing development on Plot 16 together with works to increase the permitted height of the cranes at the EMG1 rail-freight terminal, improvements to the EMG1 public transport interchange, site management building and the EMG1 pedestrian crossing.

Site Location

- 1.5 The location of the Scheme is described in Chapter 2 of the ES with reference to its various component parts. In brief, the majority of development will be on the EMG2 Main Site (build development) and the Community Park (landscaping/drainage attenuation). The remaining components of the proposals are located on land within EMG1 and on land required for off-site highway improvements.

¹ FPCR (2025) EMG2 Appendix 9a: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

² FPCR (2025) EMG2 Appendix 9b: Badger Report

³ FPCR (2025) EMG2 Appendix 9c: Bat Report

⁴ FPCR (2025) EMG2 Appendix 9e: Invertebrate Report

⁵ FPCR (2025) EMG2 Appendix 9f: Otter and Water Vole Report

⁶ FPCR (2025) EMG2 Appendix 9g: Reptile Report

⁷ FPCR (2025) EMG2 Appendix 9h Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment – River Mease SAC

⁸ FPCR (2025) EMG2 Appendix 9i: Biodiversity Net Gain Report

Survey Objectives

- 1.6 The Breeding Bird Survey was undertaken between April and July 2024 inclusive. 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; and
 - Make recommendations to minimise the potential impact of development and to consider opportunities for additional mitigation, compensation, and enhancement where relevant.
- 1.7 The Wintering Bird Survey was undertaken between November 2024 and February 2025 inclusive. The objectives of this survey are 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 proposed development; and
 - To identify areas of ornithological interest and make recommendations to minimise the potential impact of the proposed development.

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 NERC Act 2006 (NERC S.41). 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 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.
- 2.4 The EMG2 Project falls within the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LLRBAP, hereafter referred to as 'the LBAP') which identifies several targets for UK priority species that occur within this area, namely: barn owl *Tyto alba*, nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*, redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, sand martin *Riparia riparia*, and a multi-species action plan for swifts *Apus apus*, swallows *Hirundo rustica*, and house martin *Delichon urbicum*.

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 following statutory and non-statutory organisations were consulted for data regarding designated sites for which birds are a qualifying feature, and protected/notable bird records:

- Natural England via the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website⁹; and
- Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre (NBRC)

Field Surveys

- 3.2 The results of the desk study and habitat walkovers, as detailed in separate ecological reports, identified suitable habitat for breeding and wintering birds so further detailed surveys were recommended.

Previous Surveys

- 3.3 Ecological surveys for several receptors, including breeding and wintering birds, were undertaken in respect of the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park in 2022. These surveys were undertaken in accordance with now superseded best practice guidance and comprised a three-visit Breeding Bird Survey and two-visit Wintering Bird Surveys.

Field Surveys

- 3.4 The survey methodology employed was in accordance with the protocol specified in the best practice guidelines – Bird Survey Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Impacts¹⁰. 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. Breeding status was inferred for each species based on the sixteen categories implemented by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee (EOAC)¹¹ 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 Main 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 Main Site, they were considered non-breeders.
- 3.5 Surveys were undertaken on the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park only as the EMG1 Works area comprises a cleared site unsuitable for significant populations of birds and thus the requirement for surveys was scoped out with the County Ecologist. Similarly, the Highways Works

⁹ www.magic.gov.uk

¹⁰ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2023). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.1.1. <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> [Accessed: 26.06.24]

¹¹ Sharrock, J.T.R (1973) Ornithological Atlases. *Auspicium* 5:13-15.

areas involve very limited areas of habitat suitable for breeding and/or wintering birds and any areas of such habitat to be lost are negligible in the context of adjacent habitats.

- 3.6 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. Bird surveys were not undertaken in unfavourable conditions, such as heavy rain or persistent strong wind (conditions which can negatively affect the results). To provide inter-survey temporal variation between surveys to account for variation in species' detectability throughout the day, the starting location and direction of walking were stratified across each of the suites of Breeding and Wintering Bird Surveys. Table 1 provides details of the survey dates and weather conditions.
- 3.7 Denial of access to a section of the EMG2 Main Site subject to an alternative application for the site (ref: 27/00727/OUTM) meant that detailed update surveys for birds could not be undertaken in this area. To provide some level of up-to-date information of the breeding and wintering bird assemblages in this part of the EMG2 Main Site this area was observed using a series of fixed-point watches during the surveys carried out on permissive access parts of the EMG2 Main Site adjacent to this area with the aid of telescopes. Furthermore, the supporting ecological documentation for planning application 27/00727/OUTM "Land South of A453" application (Technical Appendix 11.6: Breeding Birds, Tyler Grange, 2024) provides some additional information about the assemblage of breeding birds present and their respective breeding statuses though no detailed population estimates are included and it did not include assessment of the wintering bird assemblage or populations of constituent species thereof.

Breeding Bird Surveys

- 3.8 To provide a reasonable level of accuracy for determining the population status of the breeding birds on the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park, a total of six surveys were undertaken. Five were between dawn and 11.00am in April, early May, late May, June, and mid-July, and a single dusk survey in late June 2024 undertaken an hour prior to sunset and finishing an hour after. The detailed surveys undertaken span 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 this site following the consultation results and assessment of the habitats present. Survey effort was reviewed on a rolling basis and throughout returned a basic assemblage of common and widespread birds, with composition and peak counts consistent between survey occasions, such that, given the law of diminishing returns, further survey effort would be unlikely to find significant additional information to change the impact assessment with anticipated impacts expected to be relatively minor based on the widespread retention of suitable breeding habitat for the majority of species recorded.
- 3.9 The dusk survey was undertaken around during failing light and continued into darkness, where surveyors used Pulsar Axion XQ38 thermal imaging monoculars to observe birds, 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.

Wintering Bird Surveys

- 3.10 To provide a reasonable level of accuracy for determining the population status of wintering birds, four surveys were/are to be carried out from dawn until early afternoon, once per month between November 2024 and February 2025 inclusive.

Table 1: Survey Dates & Conditions

Survey	Date	Cloud Cover (%)	Rain	Wind (Beaufort)	Visibility
Breeding Bird Surveys					
BBS 1	25.04.24	70	None	1 – Light Air	Good
BBS 2	09.05.24	10	None	1 – Light Air	Good
BBS 3	24.05.24	85	None	0 – Calm	Excellent
BBS 4	14.06.24	70	None	2 – Light Breeze	Good
BBS 5 - dusk	25.06.24	5	None	1 – Light Air	Very Good
BBS 6	02.07.24	100	None	1 – Light Air	Good
Wintering Bird Surveys					
WBS 1	19.11.24	0	None	0 – Calm	Good
WBS 2	11.12.24	90	None	2 – Light Breeze	Good
WBS 3	16.01.25	20	None	0 – Calm	Good
WBS 4	07.02.25	90	None	2 – Light Breeze	Very Good

Species & Assemblage Assessment

- 3.11 The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance on ecological impact assessment assesses nature conservation importance within a geographical context¹². 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.
- 3.12 The assessment has been undertaken against the selection criteria for Local Wildlife Site (LWS) for Leicestershire¹³ 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.
- 3.13 The recent county annual bird report, *The Leicestershire & Rutland Annual Bird Report 2020*¹⁴, was consulted to inform the assessment. The abundance of species referred to by these reports is classified by the following criteria:
- Very Rare – Fewer than ten records ever;

¹² http://www.cieem.net/data/files/Publications/EcIA_Guidelines_Terrestrial_Freshwater_and_Coastal_Jan_2016.pdf

¹³ Leicestershire County Council (2011) Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites (previously known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or SINC)s in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. 4th edition.

¹⁴ The Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological Society (2022) Leicestershire & Rutland Annual Bird Report 2020.

- Rare – More than ten records ever, but occurring less than annually in the county;
- Scarce – Fewer than ten individuals or breeding pairs occurring annually in the county;
- Uncommon – Between ten and 100 individuals or breeding pairs occurring annually in the county;
- Fairly Common – Between 100 and 1,000 individuals or breeding pairs occurring annually in the county;
- Common – Between 1,000 and 10,000 individuals or breeding pairs occurring annually in the county;
- Abundant – More than 10,000 individuals or breeding pairs annually in the county.

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).
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 A single statutory site of international conservation importance was located within 15km of the EMG2 Project . This was the River Mease SAC located approximately 13.5km from the EMG2 Project Order Limits at its closest point. The SAC cites populations of fish, invertebrates and otter *Lutra lutra* plus an internationally important vegetation community and thus does not include species or assemblages of birds within its citation and is not considered further herein.
- 4.2 A single nationally designated sites of nature conservation interest was identified within 2km of the EMG2 Project Order Limits. This was Lockington Marshes SSSI located approximately 1km from the Site at its closest point. The SSSI is designated for its invertebrate assemblage and is not considered further herein.
- 4.3 During the consultation process Natural England requested that Attenborough Gravel Pits SSSI, located approximately 5.5km from the EMG2 Project Order Limits at its closest point, was also considered due to potential for hydrological connection. The Attenborough Gravel Pits SSSI citation identifies the breeding bird assemblage associated with lowland open water and associated margins and overwintering populations of shoveler *Spatula clypeata* and bittern *Botaurus stellaris* as qualifying features. The habitats present within the Site are of negligible suitability for any waterbirds given the small and isolated nature of the waterbodies lacking any typical emergent or aquatic vegetation. Potential hydrological linkage to the Site is considered given the sensitivity of many of the constituent waterbird species to pollution and/or siltation.
- 4.4 Consultation with the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC), Derbyshire Biological Records Centre (DBRC) and Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Record Centre (NBGRC) identified 80 sites of local conservation importance within 1km of the EMG2 Project Order Limits. None of these non-statutory sites have received their designations on the basis of the populations and/or assemblages of birds they support.

Protected / Notable Species

- 4.5 The desk study identified 802 records within 1km of the EMG2 Project Order Limits and/or located within one or more monads overlapping the Order Limits . These records relate to 58 species, of which 52 are afforded legislative protection on at least one of Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) and Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC), and/or are considered of national conservation concern i.e. included on the BoCC Red or Amber Lists. These species are hereafter referred to as 'notable' species. Table 3 summarises the notable species for which records were returned and differentiates those known to be within the EMG2 Project Order Limits, those "possibly" recorded within them i.e. records at monad resolution overlapping the site boundary, and those only recorded outside the Order Limits.

Table 3: Notable Bird Species Records from Desk Study

Name		Status		Within Order Limits Boundary
		WCA Sch.1	NERC S.41	
BoCC Red List				
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	+	+	No
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	+ (Part II)		No
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>		+	No
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			No
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		+	No
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		+	No
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		+	No
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	+		No
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	+		No
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	+	+	No
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	+		No
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		+	No
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	+		No
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		+	No
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		+	No
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		+	Possible
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			No
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>		+	No
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		+	No
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	+		No
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>		+	No
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		+	No
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		+	No
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		+	No
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		+	No
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		+	No
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		+	No
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>		+	No
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		+	No
BoCC Amber List				
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	+ (Part II)		No
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	+		No
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	+		No
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	+ (Part II)		No

Name		Status		Within Order Limits Boundary
		WCA Sch.1	NERC S.41	
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	+		No
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	+		No
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	+		No
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	+		No
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	+		No
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		+	No
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	+		No
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	+		No
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		+	Yes
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		+	No
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		+	No
BoCC Green List				
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	+		No
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	+		Yes
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	+		No
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	+		No
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	+		No
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	+		No
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	+		No
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	+		No

- 4.6 Only red kite *Milvus milvus* and dunnock *Prunella modularis* have been recorded from within the EMG2 Project Order Limits. Additionally, several species have been recorded very close to the Order Limits including greylag goose *Anser anser*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, and house sparrow *Passer domesticus*.
- 4.7 There are numerous records of notable wetland species including waterfowl, waders, and gulls associated with the lagoons formed within now-disused mineral extraction areas within Lockington Quarry to the north of the Order Limits. The habitats within the Order Limits as a whole – and specifically within the EMG2 Main Site where there is the potential for significant adverse impacts on birds – do not feature any expanses of open water or shallow pools required to support these species and there are thus considered highly unlikely to be present within the EMG2 Project Order Limits.
- 4.8 Similarly, there are no significant areas of woodland within the EMG2 Project Order Limits suitable for the locally scarce specialists of such habitats recorded locally primarily marsh tit *Poecile palustris*, willow tit *Poecile montanus*, and hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (records of the latter most likely refer to migrant individuals as the area is far from the nearest known, regularly used sites in the region).

- 4.9 Additionally, there are several species for which records were returned that are migrants within the region and would not therefore be expected to breed and/or overwinter within the EMG2 Project Order Limits such as osprey *Pandion haliaetus* and ring ouzel *Turdus torquatus*.
- 4.10 The desk study results identify several scarce and declining farmland bird species being present locally including quail *Coturnix coturnix*, cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur*, skylark *Alauda arvensis*, tree sparrow *Passer montanus*, yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava*, linnet *Linaria cannabina*, yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*, and reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Given the predominantly arable nature of the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park these are the species most conceivably present for which the potential effects of habitat loss would be most significant.

Previous Surveys

Breeding Bird Surveys

- 4.11 A total of 42 species were recorded across the three survey occasions in 2022, three of which were recorded overflying the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park only. Thirteen species were considered notable. Eleven species were confirmed as breeding on-site which included woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* and whitethroat *Curruca communis*, a further 14 species were considered probable breeders which included an additional nine notable species: stock dove *Columba oenas*, kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, skylark, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, dunnoek *Prunella modularis*, greenfinch *Chloris chloris*, linnet, and yellowhammer.
- 4.12 The majority of the species recorded were typical of the habitats found across the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park, being heavily influenced by the current agricultural management. The internal sections of the large arable parcels provide limited, if any, breeding opportunities for most species recorded, except for the notable skylark, for which approximately nine territories were mapped. Small numbers of woodpigeons were noted foraging in these habitats, though they were far more abundant in the other habitat types present, suggesting the field interiors have limited value as a foraging resource for this species. In addition, a number of rooks *Corvus frugilegus*, including several juvenile birds were noted foraging in the southernmost arable field and adjacent offsite fields to the south and were considered to represent birds reared at a rookery outside of the boundary given the absence of any individuals in the prior two surveys.
- 4.13 Arable field margins, temporary grass fields, and their respective boundaries provided suitable foraging habitat for small numbers of widespread farmland birds including the notable kestrel, whitethroat, wren, dunnoek, linnet, and yellowhammer, with the adjoining edges of the arable field interiors providing further foraging opportunities. No evidence of breeding for any species was noted in association with these habitats.
- 4.14 The hedgerows, areas of scrub around the ponds, and woodland bordering the arable and grassland compartments hosted several resident and migratory breeding species including a range of common and widespread taxa including common tit, warbler, and finch species. Nine species were confirmed as breeding in these habitats of which only woodpigeon was notable. In addition, these habitats supported a variety of other notable species: stock dove, kestrel, song thrush, dunnoek, greenfinch, linnet, and yellowhammer, all of which were considered probable breeders.

- 4.15 The ponds and ditch on the EMG2 Main Site hosted no breeding species.

Wintering Bird Surveys

- 4.16 A total of 35 species were recorded across the two survey occasions in 2022 of which 15 were considered notable species that were utilising the on-site habitats.
- 4.17 The number of birds recorded on-site across the two surveys undertaken in the winter of 2022 was exceptionally low given the size of the survey area and the habitats present. In addition to this, the number and diversity of notable species was also poor, with those that were recorded being of low conservation concern in a local context given their respective statuses in the county.
- 4.18 Neither the arable croplands nor their margins were heavily utilised by wintering birds, though were used regularly by small numbers of stock dove, woodpigeon, black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, rook, and skylark. While the January survey did note a moderate count of woodpigeons (136 individuals) this number had significantly reduced by February suggesting transient flocks of this species utilise the EMG2 Main Site on occasion for winter foraging.
- 4.19 The hedgerows, scrub, and perimeter woodland were of most value to wintering birds, supporting the majority of the notable species recorded across the two surveys. These habitats hosted several common and widespread generalist foragers including corvids, tits, thrushes, and finches as well as a number of notable species. The notable species included resting flocks of stock dove and woodpigeon that fed in the arable and grassland compartments, as well as wren, song thrush, redwing *Turdus iliacus*, fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, dunnoek, and yellowhammer. These habitats also provide shelter and roosting opportunities for many of the other species recorded.
- 4.20 The area of bare ground at the centre of the EMG2 Main Site, south of Hyam's Lane, supported small areas of ephemeral standing water which supported a single foraging grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* and a single mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* in January. Birds were largely absent from the vicinity of these waterbodies and ditch and neither supported any specialised waterbirds during winter though are considered likely to have some value as water sources for the other species recorded and which are otherwise more typically found in the other habitats.

Field Surveys

Breeding Bird Surveys

- 4.21 A total of 47 species were recorded across the six survey occasions (for complete list see Sub-appendix A). Of these, four species were recorded overflying the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park only and are therefore considered to be non-breeders and are not considered to be impacted by any proposed development as they do not interact with the habitats present.
- 4.22 Of the remaining 43 species recorded, 20 meet the criteria of at least one of the following pieces of legislation/classifications discussed above: Schedule 1 of the WCA; Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006; and BoCC Red or Amber lists. These species are referred to as 'notable' species.
- 4.23 Breeding evidence accumulated across all six surveys was used in the assignment of breeding status for each species in the following results.
- 4.24 Of the 43 species recorded as utilising the on-site habitats during the breeding bird surveys, 18 were confirmed as breeding. Ten of these species; kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, skylark, wren, song

thrush, dunnock, yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava*, greenfinch, linnet, and yellowhammer, are considered notable. The other eight confirmed breeding species; jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*, carrion crow *Corvus corone*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, great tit *Parus major*, chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, and chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, are BoCC Green-listed and thus considered of low conservation concern.

- 4.25 Five species were considered probable breeders which included two notable species: stock dove *Columba oenas* and whitethroat. A further two probable breeding species; long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus* and lesser whitethroat *Curruca curruca*, are BoCC Green-listed and considered of low conservation concern, whilst little owl *Athene noctua* is considered a naturalised non-native species and is therefore not assigned a conservation status.
- 4.26 The remaining 20 species recorded were considered possible breeders (12 species) or non-breeders (eight species). Non-breeders primarily consisted of species recorded away from suitable nesting habitat but for which the on-site habitats do have some ecological value in terms of foraging. Whilst a pair of raven *Corvus corax* was observed feeding recently fledged young from within one of the southern fields there is no suitable nesting habitat for this species on-site and as such it is considered that these birds were reared locally and using the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park as a transient foraging resource as they were only recorded on a single survey occasion.
- 4.27 Table 4 provides a summary of the notable species recorded during the breeding bird survey and their respective breeding statuses on-site, whilst Figure 2 shows their approximate distributions.

Table 4: Notable Breeding Bird Species Recorded and Their Recent Status in Leicestershire

Species	Legal/ Conservation Status	Peak Count / Number of Survey Occasions Recorded	Breeding Status	Recent Status in Leicestershire
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber List	1 / 3	Possible	Fairly Common resident breeder
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List	10 / 5	Probable	Fairly Common to Common resident breeder
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	87 / 6	Possible	Abundant resident breeder
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	Green List WCA Sch.1	2 / 2	Non-breeder	Uncommon resident, Scarce breeder
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber List	3 / 5	Confirmed	Fairly Common resident breeder
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List NERC S.41	11 / 5	Confirmed	Common resident
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Red List	6 / 1	Non-breeder	Common summer migrant breeder – declining
Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber List	18 / 5	Probable	Common summer migrant breeder
Wren	Amber List	25 / 6	Confirmed	Abundant resident breeder

Species	Legal/ Conservation Status	Peak Count / Number of Survey Occasions Recorded	Breeding Status	Recent Status in Leicestershire
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List NERC S.41	38 / 4	Possible	Abundant resident breeder
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	9 / 6	Confirmed	Common resident breeder
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List NERC S.41	3 / 1	Non-breeder	Common resident breeder
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	26 / 6	Confirmed	Abundant resident breeder
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	Red List NERC S.41	21 / 6	Confirmed	Uncommon summer migrant breeder
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	1 / 2	Possible	Common resident breeder
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	6 / 5	Confirmed	Common resident breeder
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red List NERC S.41	11 / 5	Confirmed	Common resident breeder
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red List NERC S.41	11 / 6	Confirmed	Common resident breeder – recent decline

Wintering Bird Surveys

- 4.28 A total of 39 species were recorded across the four survey occasions (for complete list see Sub-appendix B). Of these, five species were recorded overflying the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park 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.
- 4.29 Of the remaining 34 species recorded 17 meet the criteria to be considered notable outlined in Paragraph 4.22 above.
- 4.30 Table 5 provides a summary of the notable species recorded during the wintering bird survey, whilst Figure 3 illustrates their approximate distributions.

Table 5: Notable Wintering Species Recorded and Their Recent Status in Leicestershire

Species	Legal/ Conservation Status	Peak Count / Number of Survey Occasions Recorded	Recent Status in Leicestershire
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List	9 / 1	Fairly Common to Common resident
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	55 / 4	Abundant resident

Species	Legal/ Conservation Status	Peak Count / Number of Survey Occasions Recorded	Recent Status in Leicestershire
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Red List	2 / 1	Uncommon winter visitor
Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>	Red List	1 / 1	Abundant winter visitor
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber List	2 / 1	Common passage and winter visitor
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber List	1 / 2	Fairly Common resident
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber List	11 / 3	Abundant resident
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List NERC S.41	1 / 1	Common resident
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List	7 / 3	Abundant resident
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	1 / 2	Abundant resident
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	7 / 3	Common resident
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber List WCA Sch.1	27 / 3	Common winter visitor
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red List WCA Sch.1	7 / 3	Common winter visitor
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	12 / 4	Abundant resident
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber List	3 / 1	Uncommon resident, Fairly Common as winter visitor
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	2 / 2	Common resident
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red List NERC S.41	1 / 1	Common resident

Bird Survey Results Description

- 4.31 As previously explained, the land for which access was denied for surveys in 2024 comprises additional arable land under the same management regime as the accessed areas of the EMG2 Main Site. Previous surveys for breeding and wintering birds undertaken in 2022 identified a homogenous assemblage across the entirety of the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park with these areas supporting the same species as the surveyed areas in similar densities throughout.
- 4.32 The submitted breeding bird report accompanying the alternative application confirms that this is still the case as, while not undertaking the same number of surveys and not noting any yellow wagtails from within these fields which were observed during the vantage point surveys completed by FPCR, the recorded assemblage is largely consistent with that recorded across the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park in 2024 and previous survey results.

- 4.33 Winter bird surveys were not undertaken in support of the alternative application and thus no up-to-date information is publicly available to confirm the assemblage present nor the populations of its constituent species. This is not considered to represent a major constraint to the surveys or conclusions drawn herein as the surveys undertaken across the permissible areas of the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park have not identified any significant wintering bird assemblages. Furthermore, vantage point surveys were undertaken across this land which identified usage by similar species and in similar densities to those present across the rest of the Main Site and historical survey data from 2022 has been used to further inform the consideration of importances outlined below.

Breeding Birds

- 4.34 The majority of species recorded are typical of the habitats present at the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park in a regional context, being heavily influenced by the intensive arable agricultural land use. The actively cropped arable field interiors supported a fairly limited assemblage of breeding birds, with the exception of moderate numbers of skylark and yellow wagtail, both of which are declining species associated with arable habitats confirmed as breeding on-site and the latter of which is Uncommon as a breeding species within the county. The peak count of Skylark during surveys was 11, which broadly correlates with the findings of the previous surveys. It is reasonable to assume that the number of territories present is similar to previous years, when nine were estimated. Small numbers of other notable species including stock dove, woodpigeon, red kite, and dunnoek did utilise these areas for foraging while both notable house martin *Delichon urbicum* and swallow *Hirundo rustica* (BoCC Green-listed) were recorded hawking insects over these fields in summer but the nearest breeding sites for both species are within Diseworth village to the west.
- 4.35 Arable field margins and boundaries provided suitable foraging habitat for small numbers of widespread farmland birds including the notable kestrel, dunnoek, linnet, and yellowhammer, with the adjoining edges of the arable field interiors providing further foraging opportunities. No evidence of breeding for any species was noted in association with these habitats though both pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* and red-legged partridge *Alectoris rufa* were consistently recorded from these habitats.
- 4.36 The two parcels of grassland in the southwest corner of the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park supported a similar assemblage to the arable fields and margins with each parcel supporting singing male skylarks and small numbers of notable farmland birds in their peripheral habitats. Rook was also recorded foraging in these fields later in the breeding season.
- 4.37 The hedgerows, areas of scrub around the ponds, and woodland bordering the arable and grassland compartments hosted a number of resident and migratory breeding species including a range of common and widespread taxa including common thrush, tit, warbler, and finch species. In addition, hedgerows provided nesting opportunities for farmland bird species including linnet and yellowhammer. Many of the mature tree standards within the hedgerows had suitable cavities to support nesting stock doves, though most were occupied by jackdaws, and the typically dense scrub layers supported species typical of such habitats including notable wren, dunnoek, and greenfinch in addition to common and widespread species typical of such habitats including long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus* and blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*.

- 4.38 The watercourses and inundated grassland areas supported a few breeding birds restricted to mallard which was considered a possible breeder in these areas though did not occur with any regularity or consistency in location that would suggest a breeding attempt over foraging non-breeding males.
- 4.39 The manure heap to the south of Hyam's Lane was unsuitable for breeding by any of the species recorded but was regularly used for foraging by notable species including starling, yellow wagtail, and linnet in addition to gamebirds and little owls.

Wintering Birds

- 4.40 The number and assemblage of wintering birds across the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park was exceptionally low for a site of this size and the arable habitats of which it is comprised. The arable fields, arable field margins and grass fields in the southwest were scarcely used by wintering birds with the assemblage regularly associated with these habitats limited to a moderately-sized flock of golden plover *Pluvialis aucuparia*, single skylark, and one each of foraging common gull *Larus canus* and lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*. A single kestrel was recorded foraging from within these habitats.
- 4.41 The majority of the wintering bird assemblage recorded was associated with the hedgerows, scrub, and perimeter woodland though as was the case for the arable habitats the assemblage was extremely limited and none of the species recorded occurred in significant numbers. These habitats hosted several common and widespread generalist foragers including corvids, tits, thrushes, and finches as well as a number of notable species. The notable species included individuals of both typical winter migrant thrushes, as well as wren, song thrush, dunnock, and greenfinch. These habitats also provide shelter and roosting opportunities for many of the other species recorded.
- 4.42 Birds were absent from the vicinity of the waterbodies and watercourses and neither supported any specialised waterbirds during winter though are considered likely to have some value as water sources for the other species recorded and which are otherwise more typically found in the other habitats.

Evaluation

Breeding Assemblage

- 4.43 Arable fields and their associated margins supported a somewhat limited breeding bird assemblage though one that did include low to moderate numbers of skylark and moderate to high numbers of yellow wagtail, an Uncommon breeder in Leicestershire. Few other species were present as confirmed or probable 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 namely: stock dove, woodpigeon, red kite, swallow, and house martin. There is an abundance of similar agricultural habitats locally which includes a mixture of cereal cropland and grazing pasture (the latter however unsuitable for farmland birds) and thus the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park is not considered to represent an isolated resource for this species with usage likely to depend on the respective crop rotations as evidenced by the total lack of yellow wagtail recorded in 2022 followed by moderate numbers of this species being present in 2024. The presence of scarcer farmland birds in locally important numbers is considered of **Local** nature conservation importance.

- 4.44 The arable field margins supported a broadly similar breeding bird assemblage as the arable field interiors though represented a more significant foraging resource for other notable species including a number of farmland bird priority species e.g. kestrel, linnet, and yellowhammer. This habitat is only suitable for breeding by pheasant and red-legged partridge of the species recorded and is primarily important as a foraging resource though was utilised by the declining farmland assemblages breeding within the arable field centres. Utilisation by scarcer and specialised species within this assemblage is somewhat offset by the limited number of species reliant on these habitats for breeding and is thus considered of **Local** nature conservation importance.
- 4.45 The assemblage associated with the grassland compartments was largely identical to that of the arable fields with small numbers of woodpigeon using these fields for foraging and a single skylark territory present. No yellow wagtails were present from these compartments. The more limited species diversity and comparatively small population of skylark recorded are indicative of the smaller area occupied by this habitat type. The lower species diversity compared to the arable fields is reflected in the nature conservation importance of this habitat which is assessed as being of **Site** importance only.
- 4.46 Hedgerows, scrub, and woodland blocks on-site provided breeding and/or foraging habitat for a variety of common and widespread generalist species. The assemblage recorded is typical of such habitat in the region and whilst the assemblage did include several notable species all occurred in low numbers and none are of conservation priority in Leicestershire as all are deemed Fairly Common to Abundant in the county. These included stock dove, woodpigeon, kestrel, whitethroat, wren, song thrush, house sparrow, dunnoek, greenfinch, linnet, and yellowhammer. This coupled with the presence of several larger areas of similar scrub and woodland habitats in the surrounding landscape means the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park is considered of **Local** importance for this assemblage.
- 4.47 No breeding bird species were noted in association with the bare ground area, the ditch, or the ponds and thus all these habitats are considered of **No** nature conservation importance for their breeding bird assemblages however the latter features likely offer a valuable water resource to the birds in other habitats and thus have some greater value in this respect.

Wintering Assemblage

- 4.48 Arable parcels and their associated margins supported a restricted range of wintering bird species including skylark and golden plover, though skylark occurred in much smaller numbers than had been present during the breeding season. Also present were small flocks of stock dove, woodpigeon, common gull, and rook, with the numbers of woodpigeon considered to fluctuate as a result of mobile flocks of foraging birds. Also present in these habitats were very small numbers of pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* and red-legged partridge. The farmland bird assemblage recorded is typical of such habitat in the region and whilst this assemblage did include a small number of notable species, most occurred in very low numbers given the area of suitable habitat available, and none are considered of conservation priority in Leicestershire as all are deemed Fairly Common to Abundant in the county. Given the low species diversity and their relative abundances, coupled with the fact that there are extensive areas of similar agricultural habitat to the east, south, and west of the site boundary, the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park is considered to be of no more than **Local** importance for its wintering farmland bird assemblage.

- 4.49 The two grassland compartments were barely used by wintering birds, supporting small numbers of common and widespread generalists of open habitats limited to magpie and jackdaw both in very low numbers. It follows that the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park is considered of **Site** nature conservation importance for this wintering bird assemblage.
- 4.50 The hedgerows, scrub, and trees within the Site provided good shelter and foraging opportunities for a variety of common and widespread generalist species. The assemblage recorded in association with these habitats is typical of similar habitats in the region and, whilst the assemblage did include several notable species, most occurred in low numbers and are not considered of local conservation priority given their respective county statuses. These included stock dove, woodpigeon, sparrowhawk, kestrel, wren, starling, song thrush, redwing, fieldfare, dunnoek, greenfinch, and yellowhammer. There is an extensive area of scrub around the adjacent M1 J23A Donnington Park Services Grassland & Scrub LWS adjacent to the eastern boundary, as well as the extensive network of hedges and trees demarcating the boundaries of the surrounding arable land which includes several moderately-sized areas of woodland to the east. There was a number of notable species within this wintering bird assemblage, but abundances were low across all species recorded. The number of notable species within the wintering bird assemblage associated with the hedgerows, scrub, and trees is considered to be of **Local** nature conservation importance.
- 4.51 The small area of bare ground previously supported a single grey wagtail and small numbers of overwintering pied wagtails though neither were present on the single survey undertaken in 2024 thus far. No other species were recorded in association with this habitat and thus the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park is considered of **Negligible** importance for this wintering bird assemblage.
- 4.52 The waterbodies and ditch did not support any specialised waterbirds during winter, though potentially have some value as supplementary water sources generally. Consequently, the lack of a wintering bird assemblage in these habitats means they are of **No** nature conservation importance in this respect.

Individual Species

- 4.53 Table 6 summarises the 19 species recorded within the Main Site across the breeding and wintering seasons that are of at least **Local** nature conservation importance. Previous survey data for wintering birds has been included in this assessment as update surveys are not yet complete so the precautionary principle has been applied. Species recorded in previous surveys only are marked with a '*' in Table 6.
- 4.54 Species of at least Local importance are considered so based on their BoCC listing making them species of conservation interest but that do not occur in county important numbers on the site.
- 4.55 Notable 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 are arguably, therefore, unaffected by any changes to the land use.
- 4.56 The other bird species recorded utilising the habitats within the EMG2 Main Site and Community Park 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 6.

Table 6: Birds of Local Nature Conservation Importance or Higher

Name		Status		Nature Conservation Value	Season
		WCA Sch.1	NERC S.41		
BoCC Red List					
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			Local	WBS
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>			Local	WBS
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		+	Local	BBS & WBS
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	+		Local	WBS
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		+	Local	BBS
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			Local	BBS
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		+	Local	BBS
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		+	Local	BBS
BoCC Amber List					
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			Local	BBS & WBS
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			Local	BBS & WBS
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			Local	WBS
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			Local	BBS & WBS
Rook	<i>Corvus frugliegus</i>			Local	WBS
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>			Local	BBS
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			Local	BBS & WBS
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		+	Local	BBS & WBS
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	+		Local	WBS
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		+	Local	BBS & WBS
Grey Wagtail*	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			Local	WBS

APPENDIX 9D-A-: EMG2 – BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS & EOAC CRITERIA FOR CATEGORISATION OF BREEDING EVIDENCE

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 25.04.24	Survey 2 09.05.24	Survey 3 24.05.24	Survey 4 14.06.24	Survey 5 25.06.24 (dusk)	Survey 6 02.07.24	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			1 flyover				Green List	Non-breeder F
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1 + 3 flyovers	1 + 1 flyover	1 flyover				Amber List	Possible H,UH,F
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	2	2	6	3	3	4	Not Listed	Possible H
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	6	7	5			6	Not Listed	Possible H
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia f. domestica</i>	2		1				Green List	Non-breeder UH
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	10 + 2 flyovers	1	7 + 10 flyovers	3		3 + 5 flyovers	Amber List	Probable N,P,H,UH,F
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	31 + 10 flyovers	8 + 2 flyovers	66 + 10 flyovers	9 + 4 flyovers	1 + 6 flyovers	87 + 18 flyovers	Amber List	Possible S,H,UH,F
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			1 flyover				Red List NERC S.41	Non-breeder F
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			3 flyovers				Amber List	Non-breeder F
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>			1 + 3 flyovers			2 + 2 flyovers	Green List WCA Sch.1	Non-breeder UH,F
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 + 1 flyover	1 flyover	3 + 1 flyover	1		2	Green List	Possible H,UH,F
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				2	2	1	Not Listed	Probable N,P,H

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 25.04.24	Survey 2 09.05.24	Survey 3 24.05.24	Survey 4 14.06.24	Survey 5 25.06.24 (dusk)	Survey 6 02.07.24	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			1			1	Green List	Possible H
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	2	2	3		3	Amber List	Confirmed FL,A,N,P,H
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1 flyover						Green List WCA Sch.1	Non-breeder F
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>						1	Green List	Possible H
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	5	7	7	8	2	11	Green List	Possible H,UH
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	6 + 1 flyover	10 + 2 flyovers	31 + 12 flyovers	10 + 7 flyovers		18 + 3 flyovers	Green List	Confirmed FF,ON,N,P,H,UH,F
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	1 + 2 flyovers		2 + 5 flyovers				Amber List	Non-breeder UH,F
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	8 + 2 flyovers	5 + 2 flyovers	19 + 4 flyovers	10 + 2 flyovers	4 flyovers	18	Green List	Confirmed FL,B,N,S,H,UH,F
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	1 flyover		4 + 2 flyovers				Green List	Non-breeder FL*,UH,F
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	8	6	28	8		16	Green List	Confirmed FF,FL,ON,FL,A,P,S, H
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	14	7	17	3		6	Green List	Confirmed FF,FL,P,S,H
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	9	9	11	6		11	Red List NERC S.41	Confirmed FF,A,D,T,P,S,H
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	3 flyovers		10		2 flyovers	2	Green List	Non-breeder UH,F

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 25.04.24	Survey 2 09.05.24	Survey 3 24.05.24	Survey 4 14.06.24	Survey 5 25.06.24 (dusk)	Survey 6 02.07.24	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			6				Red List	Non-breeder UH
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	3	2	2		2		Green List	Probable B,P,H
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	2	6	8	2		7	Green List	Confirmed FL,T,S,H
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	5	5	7	5	2	14	Green List	Confirmed FL,A,P,S,H
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	1		1			1	Green List	Probable A,S,H
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	7	13	18	13		11	Amber List	Probable A,D,T,P,S,H
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	1					1	Green List	Possible H
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	13	15	20	20	4	25	Amber List	Confirmed FF,A,T,S,H
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		1 flyover	1 + 7 flyovers	38 + 1 flyover		2 + 35 flyovers	Red List NERC S.41	Possible H,UH,F
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	5	5	9	4	3	5	Amber List NERC S.41	Confirmed FF,N,T,S,H
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	17 + 1 flyover	25	35	22	6	18	Green List	Confirmed FF,FL,A,P,S,H,UH,F
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	18	10	18	8		15	Green List	Confirmed FF,FL,A,T,S,H

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 25.04.24	Survey 2 09.05.24	Survey 3 24.05.24	Survey 4 14.06.24	Survey 5 25.06.24 (dusk)	Survey 6 02.07.24	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			3				Red List NERC S.41	Non-breeder UH
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	12	12	22	14	1	26	Amber List NERC S.41	Confirmed FF,T,P,S,H,UH
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	2 flyovers	12 + 5 flyovers	18 + 2 flyovers	1 + 3 flyovers	1	21 + 4 flyovers	Red List NERC S.41	Confirmed FL,A,N,P,S,H,F
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	3 + 1 flyover	4 + 1 flyover	2 + 2 flyovers	4	1	1 flyover	Green List	Non-breeder UH,F
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	12	10	7	2		3	Green List	Confirmed FL,T,P,S,H
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	1					1	Amber List NERC S.41	Possible H
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2 + 2 flyovers	1 flyover	3	4		6	Red List	Confirmed FL,A,N,D,T,P,S,H,F
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	8	1	5 + 2 flyovers	5		11 + 10 flyovers	Red List NERC S.41	Confirmed FL,P,S,H,F
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	5 + 7 flyovers	3 + 4 flyovers	3 + 7 flyovers	7		6 + 7 flyovers	Green List	Possible S,H,F
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	5	3	5	4 + 3 flyovers	1	11 + 1 flyover	Red List NERC S.41	Confirmed FF,P,S,H,F
Total Species	47	37	30	42	28	27	36		

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

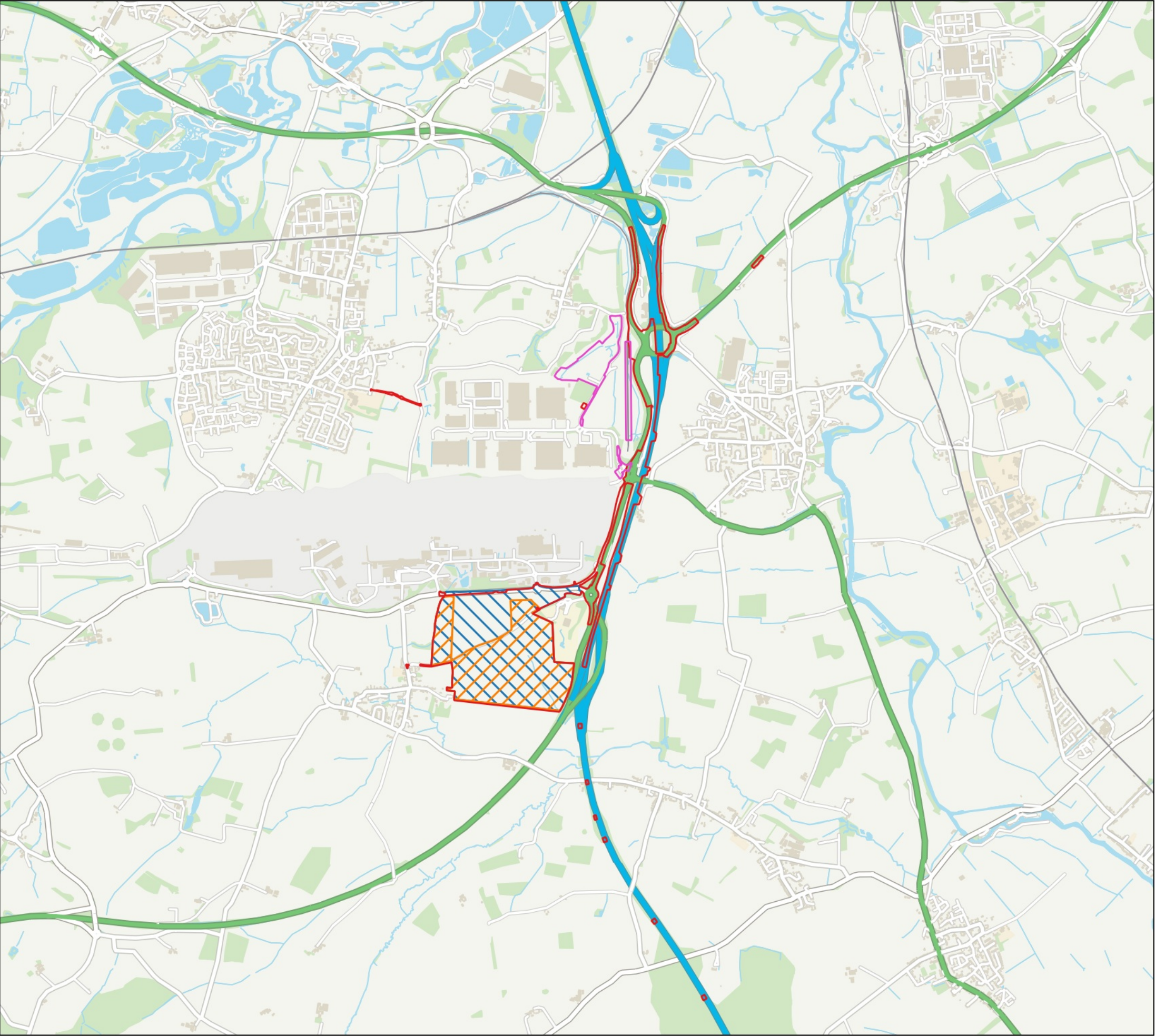
- F** – flying over
- M** – migrant
- U** – summering non-breeder
- UH** – observed in unsuitable nesting habitat

APPENDIX 9D-B: EMG2 – WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 19.11.24	Survey 2 11.12.24	Survey 3 16.01.25	Survey 4 07.02.25	Conservation Status & Protection
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				2 flyovers	Amber List
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1		1	1	Not Listed
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		3	4	2	Not Listed
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia f. domestica</i>	17 flyovers				Green List
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			9 + 1 flyover		Amber List
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	55 + 16 flyovers	13 + 2 flyovers	14 + 1 flyover	29 + 2 flyovers	Amber List
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		52	43		Green List
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			2		Red List
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	2 flyovers			3 flyovers	Amber List
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	1 + 4 flyovers				Red List
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>			1 flyover		Red List NERC S.41
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		1 flyover	2	1 flyover	Amber List

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 19.11.24	Survey 2 11.12.24	Survey 3 16.01.25	Survey 4 07.02.25	Conservation Status & Protection
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1 flyover				Green List
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2 + 3 flyovers	2	3	1	Green List
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		1			Not Listed
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				1	Green List
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	1			Amber List
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				1	Green List
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	6 + 1 flyover	9 + 2 flyovers	7	15	Green List
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	15	8 + 1 flyover	1	2	Green List
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	1 + 32 flyovers	11 + 1 flyover	1 + 26 flyovers		Amber List
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	7	2 + 1 flyover	9 + 56 flyovers	36 + 39 flyovers	Green List
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	3	5	30	9	Green List
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	3	4	20	6	Green List
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1 + 4 flyovers				Red List NERC S.41
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	3		7	1	Amber List

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 19.11.24	Survey 2 11.12.24	Survey 3 16.01.25	Survey 4 07.02.25	Conservation Status & Protection
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>			1 + 31 flyovers	3 flyovers	Red List NERC S.41
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2		7	1	Amber List NERC S.41
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	1 + 3 flyovers		1	27	Amber List WCA Sch.1
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	5	9	20	14	Green List
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	1		7	2	Red List WCA Sch.1
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	5	9	13	4	Green List
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	10	5	12	5	Amber List NERC S.41
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		3 flyovers	34 + 11 flyovers	32 + 15 flyovers	Green List
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	1 flyover		3		Amber List
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		1			Green List
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2		1		Red List
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			1 + 2 flyovers		Red List NERC S.41
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			6 + 12 flyovers	3	Green List
Total No. Species	41	24	18	30	25	



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Key

- Red Line Boundary**
- Order Limits EMG1 MCO
 - Order Limits EMG2 DCO
 - Main Site Boundary - Surveyed 2022
 - Survey Area Boundary - Surveyed 2024-25

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Order Limits EMG2 DCO

BBS Survey Area

HS House Sparrow
LI Linnet
S Skylark
SG Starling
YW Yellow Wagtail
Y Yellowhammer
GR Greenfinch
HM House Martin

BF	Bullfinch
D	Dunnock
K	Kestrel
MA	Mallard
SD	Stock Dove
WH	Whitethroat
RO	Rook
ST	Song Thrush
WP	Woodpigeon
WR	Wren

KT Red Kite

 Schedule 1 Species

 NERC Species of Principal Importance

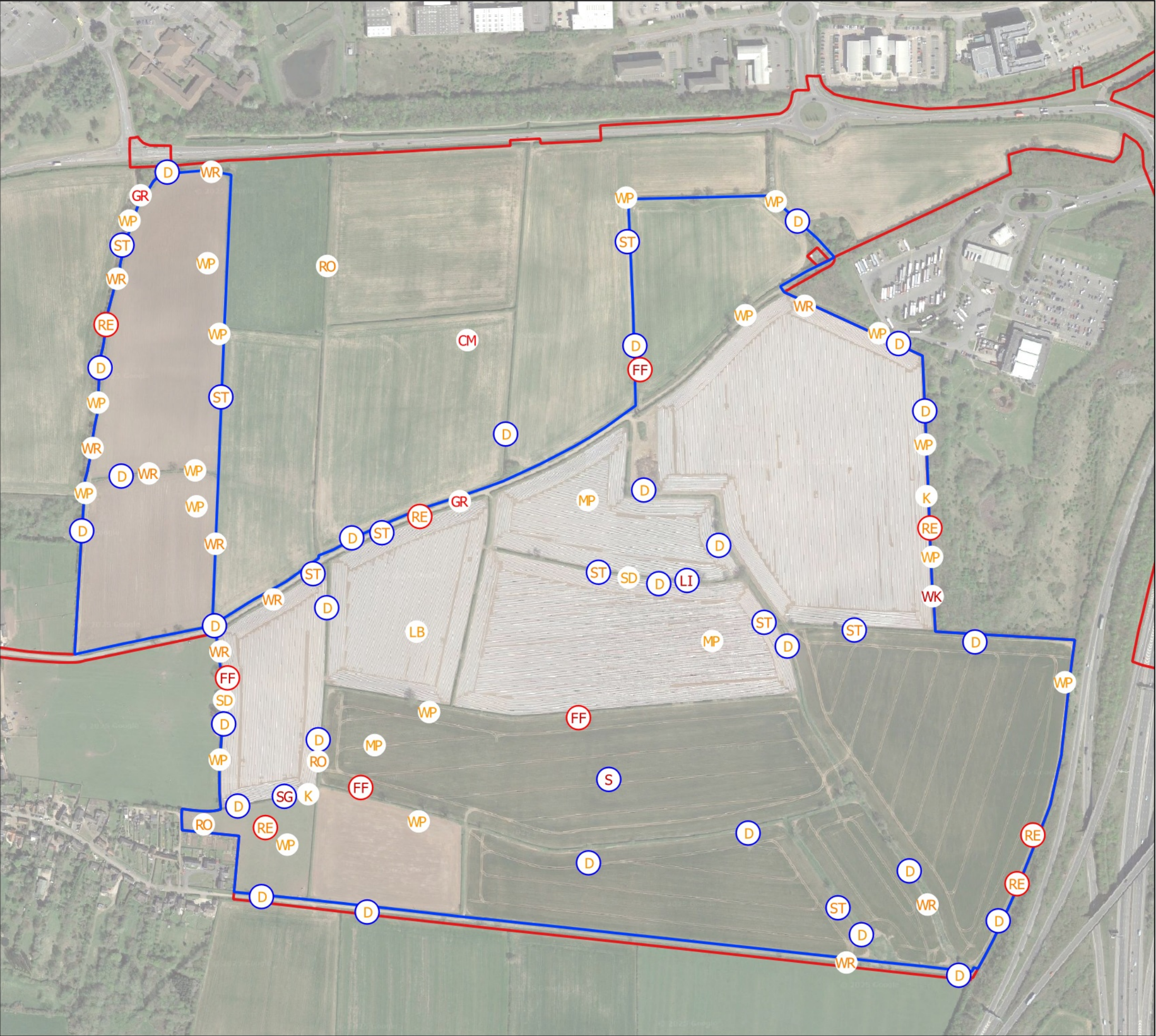
project
East Midlands Gateway Phase 2
(EMG2)

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drawn
LE/SJA

issue date
26/9/2025

L:\10600\10666\ECO\QGIS\QGIS 2.14\Plans\Bird Figures\2024\BoCC5 - BBS Template - Oct 2024\XXXX-E-XX Breeding Bird Survey Results Plan - Distribution of Notable Species.qgs



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Key

- Order Limits EMG2 DCO
- WBS Survey Area

BoCC 5 Red List Species

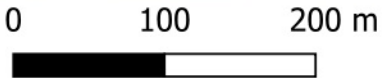
- CM Common Gull
- FF Fieldfare
- LI Linnet
- S Skylark
- SG Starling
- WK Woodcock
- GR Greenfinch

BoCC 5 Amber List Species

- D Dunnock
- K Kestrel
- LB Lesser Black-backed Gull
- MP Meadow Pipit
- SD Stock Dove
- RE Redwing
- RO Rook
- ST Song Thrush
- WP Woodpigeon
- WR Wren

Additional Protections

- Schedule 1 Species
- NERC Species of Principal Importance





client
SEGRO Properties Ltd and SEGRO (EMG) Ltd

project
East Midlands Gateway Phase 2
(EMG2)

drawing title
WINTER BIRD SURVEY RESULTS PLAN -
DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES

scale @ A3
1:5000

drawn
LE/SJA

issue date
26/9/2025

drawing / figure number
Figure 3

rev
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