

Sandleford Park, Newbury

Appendix F4: Breeding Bird Survey



Bloor Homes & The Sandleford Farm Partnership

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Executive Summary

Contents	Summary						
Site Location	The site is located at Sandleford Park in Newbury, West Berkshire, centred on OS Grid Reference SU 46847 64550. The site comprises agricultural fields with areas of grassland and several copses of ancient woodland. A central valley runs from the north-western corner of the site towards the River Enborne at the site's southern boundary.						
Existing Site Information	WYG completed an initial ecological appraisal in 2008 with update surveys completed in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017 (Appendix F1). In addition a number of protected species surveys have been completed at the site.						
Scope of this Report	Review the findings of earlier surveys to make an assessment of the bird species making use of the site, and any impacts of the current proposals with recommendations for further survey, avoidance, mitigation and enhancement where appropriate.						
Results	64 Bird species were recorded within and adjacent to site between 2011 and 2018 including 4 Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 1 species, 13 BoCC Red List Species and 12 BoCC Amber List species. The majority of species recorded were considered likely to be nesting within the woodland areas but also numerous species recorded are known to use hedgerows, wet areas and arable fields.						
Recommendations	 The following recommendations have been incorporated within the masterplan and Ecological Mitigation and Management Plan (Appendix F18): To minimise the disturbance to birds nesting within woodlands, a 15m buffer has been provided between the development and the woodland edges; Hedgerows have been retained where possible, together with appropriate buffers; To replace hedgerows lost due to the development, the remaining hedgerows will be reinforced with native plant species and new hedgerow planting is proposed; Public access to woodlands controlled / guided; To compensate for lost skylark nesting habitat, two skylark plots will be implemented within the Country Park; Installation of bird boxes within the final development; To avoid killing or injuring nesting birds, any vegetation removal necessary should be carried out outside the nesting season, if this is not possible, a thorough check should be undertaken by an ecologist to ensure that nests are not present prior to vegetation clearance. Where nests are present, a suitable buffer must be implemented in which disturbance will not be allowed until young have fledged. 						



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

WYG was commissioned by Bloor Homes & the Sandleford Farm Partnership on 27th November 2017 to review the findings of existing breeding bird surveys at Sandleford Park, Newbury, with reference to the current proposals for the site.

This summary report has been prepared by Assistant Ecologist Alex Hellyar, based on the existing breeding bird report by Senior Ecologist John Simper MCIEEM.

1.2 Site Location

The site is located at Sandleford Park in Newbury, West Berkshire and is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SU 46847 64550. The survey area, hereafter referred to as the 'site', is shown on Figure 1 and comprised of agricultural fields with areas of grassland and several copses of ancient woodland dispersed throughout. A central valley runs from the north-western corner of the site towards the River Enborne at the site's southern boundary.

For details of the development description, please see the main ES chapter.

1.3 Purpose of the Report

The scope of work comprised:

 An assessment of the bird species present on site, and any impacts from the current proposals with recommendations for further survey, avoidance, mitigation and enhancement where appropriate.



2.0 Methodology

2.1 Desk Study

2.1.1 Previous Reports

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey was first completed by WYG in 2008, with regular updates, the most recent being in November 2017 (Appendix F1). WYG completed breeding bird surveys across the site in 2018 to update the surveys previously completed during 2011, 2013 and 2015.

2.1.2 Local Ecological Records Centre

Up to date information was requested from both HBIC and TVERC in December 2017 for information on any nature conservation designations and protected or notable species records within 2 km of the site.

The data search covers:

- Statutory designated sites for nature conservation, namely SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites, SSSIs, NNRs and LNRs;
- Non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation, namely LWS;
- Legally protected species, such as great crested newts, bats and badger;
- Notable habitats and species, such as those listed as Habitats or Species of Principal Importance; and,
- Priority habitats or species within both HBIC and TVERC areas.

The data search did not cover:

- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs); or
- Conservation Areas designated for their special architectural and historic interest.

2.2 Field Surveys

The site was surveyed on four occasions during 2011 (26th May, 16th June, 23rd June and 12th July), four occasions during 2013 (17th April, 15th May, 24th May and 13th June), four occasions in 2015 (23rd April, 12th May, 29th May and the 18th June) and four occasions in 2018 (23rd March, 23rd April, 17th May and 21st June).

Survey methodology was based on the Common Bird Census techniques (Gilbert *et al.*, 2002). On each survey occasion, the survey started between 05.00 and 08:30 and lasted around 5 hours. On each occasion the site was walked over once thoroughly, with the route being varied on each occasion to prevent any time-related bias. All birds seen or heard within or immediately adjacent to the site were noted, along with notes on their behaviour, where appropriate.

The survey methodology involved standard territory (registration) mapping techniques as detailed in Bibby *et al.*, (2007). This method is based on the observation that many species during the breeding season are territorial. This is found particularly amongst passerines, where territories are often marked by conspicuous song, display, and periodic disputes with neighbouring individuals. Registrations of birds, using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) two letter species codes and activity codes (Gilbert *et al.*, 2002), were placed onto an appropriate field map. All birds mentioned



within this report have been referred to using common names only for ease of reading; a full list of the scientific names can be found in Appendix B.

In addition to the four breeding bird survey occasions in each year, any notable birds seen incidentally during other protected species surveys carried out on the site were noted and are included in this assessment.

2.3 Limitations

The 2011 surveys were all conducted in suitable weather conditions to record birds and access was available across the entire site. Ideally, breeding bird surveys should commence in late March/early April. However, in this case project timescales led to the surveys commencing in late May in 2011. This is acknowledged as a limitation to these surveys as early-breeding birds may not have been detected.

There were occasional light showers during three of the surveys in 2013 but this is considered not to have significantly affected the results of the surveys due to the number and diversity of species recorded.

During 2018, one field along the east of the site could not be entered due to the presence of livestock, however the field could viewed from the field edge and this is not considered to be a significant limitation to the surveys.

The details of this report will remain valid for a period of two years from the date of the survey, after which the validity of this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether further updates are necessary. Note that the recommendations within this report should be reviewed (and reassessed if necessary) should there be any changes to the red line boundary or development proposals which this report was based on.



3.0 Results

3.1 Desk Study

Greenham and Crookham Commons Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), (280.48 ha in favourable recovering condition) lies approximately 400m to the east of the site and comprises an extensive complex of heathland, grassland, gorse scrub, broad leaved woodland and alder-lined gullies. Breeding birds recorded on the SSSI include woodcock, nightjar, barn owl and nightingale in the woods and scrub, as well as a number of other ground nesting birds in the more open habitats.

TVERC and HBIC returned records of 41 bird species within 2 km of the site, all of which may potentially breed within the habitats present on the site. There is a record of the European nightjar within SU46R. This uses the biological recording technique of the DINTY scale. The Sandleford Park site does lie within SU46R, however this grid reference is only accurate to a 2 km radius and thus the record may not necessarily have related to the Sandleford Park site, particularly given that the data is from HBIC and Sandleford Park does not lie within Hampshire. Nightjar are discussed in detail in Appendix F6.

3.2 Survey Dates and Weather Conditions

Table 1: Dates and weather conditions for the 2011 surveys

Date	Start	Finish	Temperature (°C)	Wind (Beaufort)	Cloud cover (out of 8)	Rain
26.05.11	07:00	12:00	11.5	4	4	Light showers
16.06.11	06:30	11:30	11	0	6	Light rain throughout with some heavy rain
23.06.11	06:45	11:15	12	2	7	None
12.07.11	07:00	12:00	17	1-3	8	None

Table 2: Dates and weather conditions for the 2013 surveys

Date	Start	Finish	Temperature (°C)	Wind (Beaufort)	Cloud cover (out of 8)	Rain
17.04.13	07:20	12:20	10	1-3	8	Light showers
15.05.13	07:30	11:30	7	3	8	Light showers
24.05.13	08:00	12:15	8	2	8	Light shower



Date	Start	Finish	Temperature (°C)	Wind (Beaufort)	Cloud cover (out of 8)	Rain
12.07.11	07:00	12:00	17	1-3	8	None

Table 3: Dates and weather conditions for the 2015 surveys

Date	Start	Finish	Temperature (°C)	Wind (Beaufort)	Cloud cover (out of 8)	Rain
23.04.2015	06.05	11.30	10	1-2	8	None
12.05.2015	05.20	10.00	10	1	8	None
29.05.2013	05.10	09.50	9	1-2	8	None
18.06.2015	04.55	09.20	15	2	6	None

Table 4: Dates and weather conditions for the 2018 surveys

Date	Start	Finish	Temperature (°C)	Wind (Beaufort)	Cloud cover (out of 8)	Rain
23.03.2015	06:20	09:20	7	3	8	None
12.04.2015	06:10	08:55	9	0	1	None
29.05.2013	05:15	07:30	10	1	4	None
18.06.2015	05:05	07:00	14	1	1	None

3.3 **Breeding Bird Surveys**

A total of 64 bird species were recorded from the surveyed area during the breeding bird surveys undertaken during 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2018. Appendix B of this report lists the species noted within or adjacent to the site during the surveys, along with notes on their abundance and likelihood of breeding within the site. The locations of each bird recorded are shown within the figures in Appendices C-F, categorised by their BoCC and WCA criteria at the time of survey. There at the time of survey. Where multiple records of the same species are shown, these are considered to be separate birds. Records considered to be of the same individual on separate occasions are shown as a single record.

3.3.1 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 Species

Four bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA were recorded during the surveys, as follows:



Hobby

A maximum of two hobbies were recorded soaring over the site during the survey on the 24th May 2013 when they were moving northwards from High Wood to Crook's Copse. No evidence of hobbies nesting within the site was recorded during the surveys although the woodlands present would provide potentially suitable habitat. No individuals were noted in 2015 or 2018.

Red kite

A maximum of two red kites were seen soaring over the site on a number of occasions during the 2011 surveys. During the 2013 surveys, red kites were recorded during three of the four surveys with a maximum of two birds being seen on the 13th June. Single individuals were observed on two of the four 2015 surveys. During an evening barn owl survey in 2011, a red kite was seen to land in a tree in Gorse Covert in the south of the site. It is considered likely that the species may have been breeding in High Wood during 2015. A total of five individuals were noted during the 2018 surveys.

Kingfisher

A kingfisher was seen on two occasions on the River Enborne in the south of the site during the 2011 surveys. In places, the river has bare vertical banks suitable for nesting kingfishers, and potential kingfisher burrows were recorded during an initial site walkover in 2008 (WYG 2008). No kingfishers were recorded during the 2013 surveys. Whist two individuals were noted in the same location in 2015 as seen in 2011. A bird was seen apparently searching for nesting locations in April 2015 but no breeding was proven. No kingfisher were recorded during the 2018 surveys.

Barn owl

During barn owl activity surveys in 2013 and 2015, and during a dormouse survey in 2015, three trees were confirmed as barn owl nesting sites within the Sandleford Park site. These included two trees within the south east of the site and a tree in the north west of the site (Appendix F5). Three other trees within the site were noted as having particular potential for nesting barn owls. An assessment of the use of the site by barn owls is covered in a separate, dedicated Appendix (F5).

3.3.2 NERC species

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 lists under Section 41 the species which are considered to be of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity within England. Of the species recorded within and adjacent to the site, the following thirteen are listed within NERC section 41 as Priority Species: bullfinch, cuckoo dunnock, house sparrow, lapwing, linnet, marsh tit, skylark, song thrush, starling, tree sparrow, reed bunting and yellowhammer.

3.3.3 Bird of Conservation Concern Categories

The UK's bird species can be split into three lists of the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) 4, categorised by their conservation importance - Red, Amber and Green (Eaton *et al.*, 2015). The Red List is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action. Amber is the next most critical group, followed by Green. The criteria for classification are listed in Appendix A. Of the 64 species recorded, 37 were Green List species, 12 were Amber List species, 12 were Red List species and three were introduced with no conservation status.



Three species, recorded on site are not classified as they are introduced species: Egyptian goose, pheasant and red-legged partridge. The pheasant and red-legged partridge are likely to have been bred and brought to the site for sporting purposes.



4.0 Relevant Legislation

4.1 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

The legislative provisions for the protection of wild birds in the UK are contained primarily in Sections 1 - 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended). Under the WCA, a wild bird is defined as any bird of a species that is resident in or is a visitor to the European Territory of any member state in a wild state. This Act has been amended and reinforced in England and Wales by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. The Act makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or its eggs. Bird species listed in Schedule 1 of the 1981 Act (as amended) receive further protection which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb these species while building a nest or in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird (HMSO 1981 & 2000).

4.2 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Forty-nine bird species are also listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 which considers species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England, in accordance with the 1992 UN Convention on Biological Diversity. These bird species are considered to be of high nature conservation concern and are listed as Priority Species under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). A review by the Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG 2007) resulted in the addition of a further 30 bird species to the UK Priority Species status. The Berkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan lists ten bird Priority Species, these being skylark, kingfisher, swift, bittern, nightjar, hobby, woodcock, bullfinch, Dartford warbler and barn owl (BARS, 2013).

4.3 Birds of Conservation Concern

The conservation status of all regularly occurring British birds has been analysed in co-operation with the leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and Birdlife International Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (Eaton *et al.*, 2015). The basis of species ongoing population trends are assigned to one of three lists of BoCC. These are the UK Red, Amber and Green Lists. Although the lists confer no legal status in themselves, they are useful in evaluating the conservation significance of bird assemblages, and for assessing the potential significance of impacts and informing appropriate levels of mitigation with respect to bird populations. The criteria for classification are listed in Appendix A.



5.0 Discussion

5.1 Interpretation

Sixty-four species of bird were recorded within or adjacent to the site during the breeding bird surveys completed in 2011, 2013,2015 and 2018. The bird assemblage recorded comprises a broad range of species reflecting the diverse habitats present within the site.

The majority of the species recorded may potentially breed within the site, except for grey heron, for which the site is not considered to offer optimal breeding locations. Swifts, swallows and house martins currently have very limited opportunities to nest within the site, as there are very few buildings.

5.2 Potential Impacts on Notable Bird Species (in the absence of mitigation)

5.2.1 WCA Schedule 1 Species

Red kite

Red kites were recorded foraging over the site and landing within the site. The woodland habitats present are potentially suitable for red kites to nest although they were not considered to have bred there during 2011 or 2013; the behaviour of birds seen in 2015 indicated possible breeding activity within High Wood. This behaviour was not noted during the 2018 surveys. The site provides a foraging resource for red kites, although any individual would be unlikely to rely on this site alone. Although the woodland areas will be retained, the presence of housing within close proximity may dissuade red kites from nesting in some areas of woodland. As some foraging areas are due to be removed and the nesting potential of the site may be reduced, the proposed development would be considered to have a low negative impact on the local population of red kites.

Kingfisher

Kingfisher was recorded on the River Enborne in the south of the site and kingfishers are considered likely to breed there. Kingfishers would be largely restricted to the river and nearby waterbodies, and therefore the vast majority of the site is of no value to this species. As the proposed development is not proposed to directly affect the river or adjacent habitats, it would not be expected to impact the local kingfisher population.

Barn owl

An assessment of the use of the site by barn owls is covered in an additional report (Appendix F5).

Hobby

Two hobbies were recorded on the 24th May 2013 in the area of High Wood and Crook's Copse and a single hobby was recorded on the 13th June 2013 flying south from Barn Copse towards Gorse Covert. No records of this species were made during 2015 and 2018. No breeding activity was recorded during the surveys. Hobbies typically use old corvid nests in which to breed (e.g. carrion crow and jackdaw) which are present within the various woodlands. Although the woodland will be retained,



the presence of housing with associated human pressures within close proximity may dissuade hobbies from nesting in some areas of woodland. As the nesting potential of the site may be reduced, the proposed development would be considered to potentially have a low negative impact on the local population of hobbies.

Woodlark

Two singing woodlarks were noted in April 2015; these were found in areas in the southern portion of the site but were not recorded subsequently. It is thought that these birds may have been young from the previous season that had fledged on nearby sites such as Greenham Common and were attempting to form territories of their own. Habitats within the site boundaries are not optimal for this species which prefer areas of heathland and areas of clear-felled forestry – this may be why the species appeared to be absent from the site in May and June 2015 and in 2018 It is not thought that the development proposals will have an impact on this species. The habitats within the south of the site will be retained within the Country Park.

5.3 BoCC Red List Species

House sparrow

Individual and small groups of house sparrows were recorded in all years using hedgerows on the northern and eastern boundaries of the site. Their absence from the remainder of the site is considered likely to be because the hedgerows are largely sparse or disjointed, and there are few buildings, offering few nesting places for house sparrows. As the proposed development will remove a length of species rich hedgerow along the northern boundary of the site, it would be considered to have a low negative impact on this species, although new hedgerow planting, and bulking of existing hedgerows are proposed within the masterplan. The residential gardens may potentially provide an additional foraging and nesting opportunities for this species (in the form of nest boxes), although the use of and presence of domestic cats could partially negate the benefits.

Cuckoo

A single male cuckoo was recorded on one survey in 2018 along the southern boundary of the site. Cuckoos have declined significantly across agricultural landscapes in England but are found in greater numbers in moorlands, heathland and wetlands. Cuckoos are still likely to be present at nearby Greenham Common due to the habitats present and host species such as meadow pipits still occurring. Due to the scarcity of the species on site, it is unlikely to be impacted upon by the proposals.

Lapwing

A pair of lapwings was recorded during the 2011 surveys in a field of pasture, adjacent to the west of the site. During the 2013 surveys lapwings were recorded in the fields to the south east of the site, with one pair showing signs of breeding by defending a territory. In 2015 a pair was seen to be nesting in a bean field to the southern extent of the site - this attempt failed and the pair and another adult bird were seen foraging on various fields during the survey period. At least one pair were recorded nesting within a fallow plot to the south east of Dirty Ground Copse in 2018. A pair were subsequently noted with young during later surveys. Although only low numbers appear to breed on the site the loss of foraging habitat and in increase in potential disturbance events by walkers/dogs



due to the proposals proposed development it is considered that there will be moderate negative impact on the local population of lapwings in the absence of mitigation.

Linnet

Linnets were recorded occasionally across the site in small groups during all survey years. This species may breed within the thick hedgerows and scrub, but these habitats are limited within the site. As the proposed development will remove some species rich hedgerows, it would be considered to have a low negative impact on this species.

Marsh tit

Marsh tit was recorded only once on the southern boundary of the site during the 2011 surveys and once during the 2013 survey, two individuals were recorded in 2015. There were no individuals recorded in 2018. The wet woodland present along the southern boundary of the site and the other larger blocks of woodland on site provides ideal breeding habitat for this species. As this habitat is not likely to be affected by the proposed development, there would not be a significant impact on this species.

Mistle thrush

Mistle thrushes were recorded throughout the site during 2011, 2013 and in small numbers during 2015. There were no individuals recorded in 2018, although it is likely that the species still breeds within the site. The proposed development of the site would leave the breeding habitat of this species largely intact, but some feeding areas such as field margins and grazed fields would be removed. Therefore the development would be considered to have a low negative impact on this species.

Redstart

A single female redstart was recorded on the 17th April 2013 but the species was not recorded in subsequent surveys; the woodlands have the required habitat to support this species. The proposed development is considered not to have an effect upon this species.

Skylark

Skylarks were recorded widely across the site in every survey year within the larger arable fields which provide good breeding habitat for this species, although relatively low numbers were recorded in 2015. Many of the larger fields are to be retained within the Country Park, and converted to grassland which may lead to increased breeding opportunities for this species, although disturbance by recreational activities such as dog walking may have a negative impact. The provision of bare patches 'skylark plots' within the Country Park will provide additional feeding areas for the species. It is therefore considered that the proposed development of the site would have a moderate negative impact on the breeding success of the local population of skylarks.

Song thrush

Song thrushes were recorded within the majority of woodlands within the site, with an estimated 10-15 singing males being noted during the surveys in 2011, 2013,2015 and 2018. This species is very likely to breed within the woodland. The proposed development of the site would not be considered



to have a significant impact on this species, as the woodlands will be retained. The residential gardens may potentially provide an additional foraging and nesting resource for this species, although the possible future use of poisonous garden pesticides and presence of domestic cats could potentially partially negate the benefits.

Starling

Starlings were relatively scarce within the site, recorded occasionally in groups of up to four during 2011, including a family with young in the north of the site, there were similar numbers during the 2013 and 2015 surveys but none recorded in the 2018. There were no individuals recorded in 2018. The site contains potential breeding habitat for this species within mature trees, and the arable fields would provide good foraging habitat, particularly in the winter. The proposed development is due to remove large areas of starling foraging habitat whilst providing additional nesting opportunities. However, equally suitable habitat is abundant nearby. Therefore the proposed development would be considered to have a low negative impact on this species.

Tree sparrow

An individual tree sparrow was recorded on one occasion within a hedgerow to the south of Dirty Ground Copse during 2011. Whilst the habitat within the site offers reasonable habitat for the tree sparrow, in hedges and woodland edges, it was evidently not numerous within the site. The proposed development of the site would leave the breeding habitat of this species largely intact and therefore there would not be a significant impact on this species.

Woodcock

A woodcock was seen on one occasion during the 2011 surveys travelling over the north of the site, during a night time survey. The wet woodland and wet grassland areas of the site offer ideal foraging and breeding habitat for this species and so there is good potential for this species to breed within the site. The woodlands are largely due to be retained in the proposed development and the majority of wet grassland is also due to be retained. Some feeding in the form of arable and horse grazed fields are due to be removed and so the development would be considered to have a low negative impact on this species.

Yellowhammer

Single male and female yellowhammers were recorded within the site on one occasion each during 2011 and a single bird was recorded during the 2013 surveys, none were recorded during 2015. Therefore breeding within the site is still however a possibility. As with house sparrows, the scarcity of this species within the site is likely to be due to the poor quality of the hedgerows present. As the proposed development will remove species rich hedgerow along the northern boundary, it would be considered to have a low negative impact on this species, however replacement hedgerow planting, and bulking up of existing hedgerows is proposed.



5.4 BoCC Amber List Species

Bullfinch

A pair of bullfinches was noted on one occasion in Dirty Ground Copse during 2011. And several individuals were noted in blocks of woodland during 2015. Two pairs of bullfinches were recorded in 2018 within hedgerows and woodland habitats on-site. It is therefore likely that they have bred within the site and the woodlands within the site offer good nesting habitat. The proposed development of the site would leave the breeding habitat of this species largely intact and therefore there would not be a significant impact on this species, additionally, residential gardens may provide increased foraging habitat for this species.

Dunnock

Dunnocks were widespread throughout the site during all survey years. They were recorded breeding in the west of the site. The site offers good breeding habitat for this species in the dense woodlands and hedgerows. The proposed development of the site would leave the breeding habitat of this species largely intact and therefore there would not be a significant impact on this species.

House martin, swallow and swift

These species were recorded in moderate numbers foraging over the site, particularly house martin which was recorded in groups of up to thirty. Although the foraging habitat for these species is good, there are very limited opportunities to nest within the site, as there are very few buildings. Therefore the proposed development of the site would not have a significant negative impact on these species.

Kestrel

A pair of kestrels was recorded nesting in a tree on the northern edge of High Wood during 2011 and in a tree to the east of the site in 2015. A pair were recorded within a tree in the eastern half of the site. The pair were assumed to be breeding within a mature oak tree within this area of the site. Optimal foraging habitat for kestrels (rank grassland) is spread throughout the site, but the majority of this habitat type is not due to be removed by the proposed development and the provision of larger areas of grassland is likely to provide additional hunting areas for this species. Therefore the development would be considered to have a medium positive impact on this species.

Kingfisher

As kingfishers are listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, they have been addressed in section 5.1.1, above.

Lesser black-backed gull

A single lesser black-backed gull was recorded flying over the site on 24th May 2013. The proposed development is considered not to have an effect upon this species.

Mallard



Mallard were observed with young on the pond to the east of High Wood which lies outside of the red line boundary during the 2011 and 2015 surveys. Mallard were recorded in the same locations during the 2013 surveys but no young were recorded. No mallards were recorded during 2018. Breeding habitat for this species within the site is limited to the waterbodies close to the River Enborne in the south-east of the site and the pond to the east of the site. However, these habitats are not proposed to be directly affected by the development. Overall, the development proposals are unlikely to have a negative effect on this species if their breeding habitat is retained undisturbed.

Reed bunting

Reed buntings were recorded around the pond on the eastern edge of the site during the 2013 surveys. The pond is outside the site boundary. However, these habitats are not proposed to be affected by the development. Overall, the development is unlikely to a have a negative impact upon this species

Stock dove

Stock doves were recorded occasionally across the site. The site contains good breeding habitat in the form of tree-holes, so it is likely that this species could breed within the site. The arable fields of the site offer good feeding habitat and around half of the suitable feeding habitat within the site would be removed for the proposed development. Therefore the development would be considered to have a moderate negative impact on this species due to the reduced number of arable fields.

Willow warbler

One pair of willow warblers was recorded on one occasion to the north of Gorse Covert during 2011. Low numbers were also recorded during the 2013 surveys and only one individual noted in 2015. It is possible that they may have bred within the site. The woodlands within the site offer good breeding and feeding habitat for this species. The proposed development of the site would leave the breeding and feeding habitat of this species largely intact and therefore there is not predicted to be a significant impact on this species.

5.5 Common and Widespread Bird Species

A maximum of 37 common and widespread species were recorded as likely to be breeding during the surveys in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2018. The majority were woodland and scrub nesting species such as blackbird, blue tit, chaffinch, robin and wren or hole-nesting species such as great spotted woodpecker, nuthatch and treecreeper. As these birds generally breed and feed within the woodland areas, the proposed development would be considered to have a negligible impact to these species.

Barn owls and red kites are listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and have been addressed in section 5.1.1, above.

Buzzards were considered likely to be nesting at the site. Buzzards nest in mature trees, which are largely going to be unaffected by the development. However, some foraging habitat for buzzards will be lost; therefore the development would be considered to have a low negative impact on this species.



6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 Design Mitigation

The masterplan has evolved with ecological input. The development footprint is due to cover the arable and pasture fields in the north and west of the site, estimated to be approximately 30-40% of the total site area assessed within this report. All woodland blocks will be retained, as will the majority of the wet grassland and brook that runs through the centre of the site, although valley crossings are proposed.

The south-eastern area of the site is due to be retained and enhanced as Country Park comprising areas of tall grassland and pocket orchards. The River Enborne is not proposed to be affected although there may be some controlled access to the river bank with the exact route and nature of the path to be determined by an ecologist in consultation with Berkshire Wildlife Trust and West Berkshire LPA to reduce impact to breeding birds along this river corridor.

As the site was found to support a diverse assemblage of bird species, including 4 WCA Schedule 1 species and 12 BoCC Red List species, the site is considered to be of local importance. The majority of species recorded during the surveys are considered likely to be breeding within the woodland areas of the site. Such species include red kite, song thrush and starling. As the woodland areas will be retained, the nesting opportunities for these species will be retained. A buffer of at least 15m will be retained between the woodland edge and residential properties to reduce disturbance to birds using the woodlands.

Species known to nest in hedgerows and scrub were generally recorded in relatively low numbers within or adjacent to the site, including house sparrow, linnet, yellowhammer and whitethroat. This is likely to be due to the sparse and disjointed nature of hedgerows within the site. As the proposed development is due to include the removal / bisection of some hedgerows, these species will find even fewer nesting opportunities within the site. In order to enhance the remaining areas of the site for hedgerow-nesting species and maintain the current population levels of these species, the remaining hedgerows will be reinforced with native hedgerow species and will be retained within a 3m buffer. There will also be new hedgerow creation.

6.2 Skylark Plots

The bird species possibly facing the most significant impact from the development is skylark and lapwing. Skylarks are ground nesting species and feed within arable fields, a number of which are due to be removed for the development. It is estimated that at least five of the skylark territories recorded during 2011 would be within the footprint of the development, whilst three were found in the same area in 2015 and three-four in 2018. Research carried out by the RSPB (2011) has shown that small plots (16–24 m²) left unsown in winter cereals boost the nesting opportunities and food available for skylarks. Two skylark plots are proposed in the southern extent of the site within the Country Park, and will be delivered through the Ecological Mitigation and Management Plan (EMMP, Appendix F18). These will be surrounded by wildflower rich grassland which is likely to mitigate for the loss of arable land providing that disturbance from recreational activities does not impact upon breeding attempts. This will be addressed by carefully marking out footpaths with waymarking signs so there are no footpaths in close proximity to optimal nesting sites The skylark plots will also continue to offer breeding habitat for lapwings which prefer to nest on areas of sparse vegetation.



6.3 Disturbance

Apart from directly affecting the habitats within the footprint of the proposed development, the retained areas of the site would be subject to indirect disturbance due to increased levels of human use. Although the site is currently accessed by the public for leisure purposes, the development would be expected to increase the public use of the site significantly. Increased levels of disturbance may dissuade birds from nesting in certain areas. Additionally, woodland areas adjacent to the development would be used by domestic cats, which would represent a major threat to nesting birds. To manage human disturbance as far as possible, access will be controlled through a mixture of made paths and fencing (if appropriate).

The River Enborne, running along the southern boundary of the site, is currently not due to be affected by the development, nor is the wet woodland habitat which is found alongside the river. The placement of footpaths within this area will be undertaken through consolation with an ecologist from the LPA to minimise any potential disturbance. Two protected / notable bird species, kingfisher and marsh tit were recorded in this area, but are not expected to be impacted by the proposed development.

6.4 Nesting Birds

6.4.1 Nesting opportunities

Although the addition of a large residential development will have an overall negative impact on the birds that currently use the site, the development may also provide nesting opportunities for certain species, particularly if artificial nest boxes are installed. Species particularly likely to make use of nest boxes on buildings include house sparrow, starling, swallow, house martin and swift. The following bird boxes will be installed at the site – see the EMMP (Appendix F18) for indicative locations:

- Installation of 25 starling nest boxes and 10 house sparrow nesting boxes/terraces incorporated onto proposed buildings.
- Installation of eight nesting boxes with a variety of hole sizes from 25mm to 35mm these will be suitable for a range of bird species.
- Installation of eight open fronted bird boxes, which will be used for species such as robins, spotted flycatchers and pied wagtails.
- Installation of eight wedge shaped nest boxes, which will be used for species such as treecreeper.
- Installation of two tawny owl nest boxes, two barn owl boxes and two little owl boxes (Refer to Appendix G).

6.4.2 Protection during construction

All wild birds are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or its eggs. Bird species listed in Schedule 1 of the Act also receive further protection which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb these species while building a nest or in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird. Schedule 1 birds found on this site were red kite, kingfisher, hobby and barn owl. During the construction phase, it is likely that the development activities will destroy or disturb habitats and



features in which birds may be nesting. To avoid recklessly disturbing or destroying bird nests during the works, it is recommended that any necessary vegetation removal should take place outside of the nesting season, which is generally considered to take place between March and September (inclusive) each year. If there is no alternative but to undertake vegetation removal during the nesting season, this should only be undertaken subject to a thorough check by a suitably experienced ecologist to identify any active nests present. Where active nests are found to be present, a buffer zone of at least 5m (dependent on the species and habitat type) will be recommended where no disturbance will be permitted until all young have fledged and no longer return to the nest(s).

Vegetation removal methodologies with consideration to all protected and notable species found on site are specified within the EMMP (Appendix F18).



7.0 References

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Appendix A – BoCC Classification Categories



Birds in the Red and Amber Lists will be subject to at least one of the relevant factors listed below.

Red List criteria

- Globally threatened
- Historical population decline in UK during 1800–1995
- Severe (at least 50%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years, or longer-term period (the entire period used for assessments since the first BoCC review, starting in 1969).
- Severe (at least 50%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years, or the longerterm period

Amber List criteria

- Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe (SPEC = Species of European Conservation Concern)
- Historical population decline during 1800–1995, but recovering; population size has more than doubled over last 25 years
- Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years, or the longer-term period
- Moderate (25-49%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years, or the longer-term period
- Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK non-breeding population over last 25 years, or the longerterm period
- Rare breeder; 1–300 breeding pairs in UK
- Rare non-breeders; less than 900 individuals
- Localised; at least 50% of UK breeding or non-breeding population in 10 or fewer sites, but not applied to rare breeders or non-breeders
- Internationally important; at least 20% of European breeding or non-breeding population in UK (NW European and East Atlantic Flyway populations used for non-breeding wildfowl and waders respectively)

Green List

Species that occur regularly in the UK but do not qualify under any or the above criteria.



Appendix B – Bird Species Recorded During Surveys



Common Name	Scientific Name	BTO Code	Potentially breeding within site	BoCC status	W&CA Schedule 1	NERC Section 41	Notes
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	СК	Yes	Red	No	Yes	One male recorded singing on one survey in 2018.
House sparrow	Passer domesticus	HS	Yes	Red	No	Yes	Recorded in 2011 and 2018 within hedgerow on northern and western boundaries of site; potentially breeding but not recorded in significant numbers.
Lapwing	Vanellus Vanellus	L	Yes	Red	No	Yes	Pair recorded in west of site on one occasion in 2011 but no evidence of breeding. Pair recorded in fields to the south east of the site in 2015 but attempt failed, pair and additional adult continued to forage on site. At least one pair bred towards the centre of the site and produced young. Anecdotal evidence suggests there were at least two breeding pairs.
Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	LI	Yes	Red	No	Yes	Recorded occasionally in groups of up to five across the site using hedgerows.
Marsh tit	Poecile palustris	МТ	Yes	Red	No	Yes	Individual recorded once on southern boundary and within



Common Name	Scientific Name	BTO Code	Potentially breeding within site	BoCC status	W&CA Schedule 1	NERC Section 41	Notes
							large woodland blocks on site in each survey year apart from 2018; potential to breed within wet woodlands.
Mistle thrush	Turdus viscivorus	М	Yes	Red	No	No	Recorded in several locations across the site but not in 2018; potential to breed within the site but no evidence of breeding.
Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	RT		Red	No	No	A single female bird recorded in 2013.
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	S	Yes	Red	No	Yes	Territories in larger arable fields on site, breeding very likely.
Song thrush	Turdus philomelos	ST	Yes	Red	No	Yes	Estimated 10-15 singing males recorded across the site; breeding very likely.
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	SG	Yes	Red	No	Yes	Recorded throughout site in small groups; potential for breeding in woodlands.
Tree sparrow	Passer montanus	TS	Yes	Red	No	Yes	Recorded during 2011 survey. Recorded once in south of site but none in subsequent years
Woodcock	Scolopax rusticola	WK	Yes	Red	No	No	Recorded during 2011 survey. One individual recorded over north of site; potential for breeding within site.
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	Y	Yes	Red	No	Yes	Recorded in 2011 but not subsequently, although not in 2015; potential for breeding.



Common Name	Scientific Name	BTO Code	Potentially breeding within site	BoCC status	W&CA Schedule 1	NERC Section 41	Notes
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	BF	Yes	Amber	No	Yes	Recorded in every survey year throughout large woodland blocks; potentially breeding on site.
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	D	Yes	Amber	No	Yes	Present in good numbers throughout the site, likely to be breeding in many areas.
House martin	Delichon urbicum	НМ	Yes	Amber	No	No	Recorded in groups of up to thirty foraging over the site in 2011 and 2015 but not in 2018; no buildings with breeding potential for this species are presenant on site.
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	K	Yes	Amber	No	No	Confirmed breeding on northern edge of high wood and to the east of the site. Possibly two pairs present on site.
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	KF	Yes	Amber	Yes	No	Recorded during 2011 and 2015 but not in 2018. Possible breeding sites in banks of the River Enborne, unlikely to breed elsewhere in site.
Lesser black- backed gull	Larus fuscus	LB		Amber	No	No	A single bird flying over the site in 2013.
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	MA	Yes	Amber	No	No	Adult with young in pond to east of High Wood, outside site; breeding confirmed but unlikely within the site. Also



Common Name	Scientific Name	BTO Code	Potentially breeding within site	BoCC status	W&CA Schedule 1	NERC Section 41	Notes
							recorded in flight in the vicinity of the River Enborne in 2018.
Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	RT	Yes	Amber	No	No	One individual recorded in 2011.
Reed bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	RB		Amber	No	Yes	Recorded in 2013 in and around the pond on the eastern edge of the site but not subsequently.
Stock dove	Columba oenas	SD	Yes	Amber	No	No	Recorded occasionally in each survey year likely to breed in woodland blocks and scattered mature trees.
Swift	Apus apus	SI	Yes	Amber	No	No	Recorded during 2011 and 2018 survey. Recorded only low numbers – no buildings with breeding potential are found on site.
Tawny owl	Strix aluco	то	Yes	Amber	No	No	Recorded breeding in High Wood during 2015 and 2018 widespread within woodland on site.
Willow warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	ww	Yes	Amber	No	No	Low numbers recorded in woodland on site but not in 2018, no evidence of breeding.
Barn owl	Tyto alba	ВО	Yes	Green	Yes	No	Confirmed breeding mature trees on site.
Blackbird	Turdus merula	ВО	Yes	Green	No	No	Present in good numbers throughout the site and very



Common Name	Scientific Name	BTO Code	Potentially breeding within site	BoCC status	W&CA Schedule 1	NERC Section 41	Notes
							likely to breed within woodland and hedgerows.
Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	ВС	Yes	Green	No	No	Present throughout the site and likely to breed within woodland and hedgerows.
Blue tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	ВТ	Yes	Green	No	No	Present in good numbers throughout the site and confirmed breeding in at least six locations
Buzzard	Buteo buteo	BZ	Yes	Green	No	No	Noted hunting/foraging over the site, confirmed breeding in Brickkiln Copse and likely in Slockett's Copse or High Wood.
Carrion crow	Corvus corone	С	Yes	Green	No	No	Present throughout site in arable fields; potential to breed in woodlands.
Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	СН	Yes	Green	No	No	Present in good numbers throughout the site .
Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	СС	Yes	Green	No	No	Males singing in all woodland areas throughout site and very likely to breed.
Coal tit	Periparus ater	СТ	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded in three woodlands throughout the site; likely to breed.
Collared dove	Streptopelia decaocto	CD	Yes	Green	No	No	Last recorded during 2011 survey. Recorded once in east and west of site close to residential areas; potential to breed within site.



Common Name	Scientific Name	BTO Code	Potentially breeding within site	BoCC status	W&CA Schedule 1	NERC Section 41	Notes
Coot	Fulica atra	СО		Green	No	No	A pair was recorded with young on the pond to the east of the site in 2015
Garden warbler	Sylvia borin	GW		Green	No	No	Recorded in low numbers during 2013 and in 2018.
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	GC	Yes	Green	No	No	Very likely to breed in larger woodland blocks
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	GO	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded throughout site in groups of up to eight; likely to breed.
Great spotted woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	GS	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded throughout the site, confirmed breeding.
Great tit	Parus major	GT	Yes	Green	No	No	Present in good numbers throughout the site and confirmed breeding in at least three locations.
Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris	GR	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded throughout site, largely in hedgerows; likely to breed.
Green woodpecker	Picus viridis	G	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded in woodlands throughout site including proven.
Grey heron	Ardea cinerea	Н	No	Green	No	No	Recorded on two occasions commuting over the site in 2011 and 2013; unlikely to breed within the site.
Hobby	Falco subbuteo	HY		Green	Yes	No	A maximum of two recorded during 2013 surveys, but not recorded in 2015 or 2018.



Common Name	Scientific Name	BTO Code	Potentially breeding within site	BoCC status	W&CA Schedule 1	NERC Section 41	Notes
Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	JD	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded in high numbers throughout the site, often foraging with rooks; likely to breed in hollow trees.
Jay	Garrulus glandarius	JD	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded in good numbers throughout site; ideal foraging and breeding habitat.
Little grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	LG	Yes	Green	No	No	Breds on the pond to east of High Wood, outside site;
Long-tailed tit	Aegithalos caudatus	LT	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded throughout site and family parties recorded.
Magpie	Pica pica	MG	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded in moderate numbers throughout the site including one pair; likely to breed.
Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	NH	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded frequently throughout woodlands including a pair in High Wood; very likely to breed.
Pied wagtail	Motacilla alba yarrellii	PW	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded occasionally including one pair in north of site; some potential for breeding.
Red kite	Milvus milvus	КТ	Yes	Green	Yes	No	Recorded foraging over site and suspected breeding within High Wood within woodlands but no evidence of breeding.
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	R	Yes	Green	No	No	Present in good numbers throughout the site.



Common Name	Scientific Name	BTO Code	Potentially breeding within site	BoCC status	W&CA Schedule 1	NERC Section 41	Notes
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	RO	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded foraging in paddocks to the west of site, but no breeding site recorded.
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	SH	Yes	Green	No	No	Last recorded during 2011 survey. Young seen within Slockett's Copse in 2018 (during invertebrate survey).
Swallow	Hirundo rustica	SL	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded in groups of up to seven foraging over the site; breeding within the site is unlikely due to like of suitable buildings.
Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	TC	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded occasionally in woodlands, generally as pairs; breeding very likely.
Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	WH	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded occasionally in hedgerows and scrub on site – breeding highly likely
Woodlark	Lullula arborea	WL	No	Green	Yes		2 singing males recorded in April 2015, habitat not optimal for this species. None recorded in 2018.
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	WP	Yes	Green	No	No	Present in large numbers throughout site; very likely to breed.
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	WR	Yes	Green	No	No	Recorded in good numbers throughout site.
Egyptian goose	Alopochen aegyptiacus	EG		n/a	No	No	Recorded on one occasion during the 2013 surveys. None have been recorded during subsequent surveys.



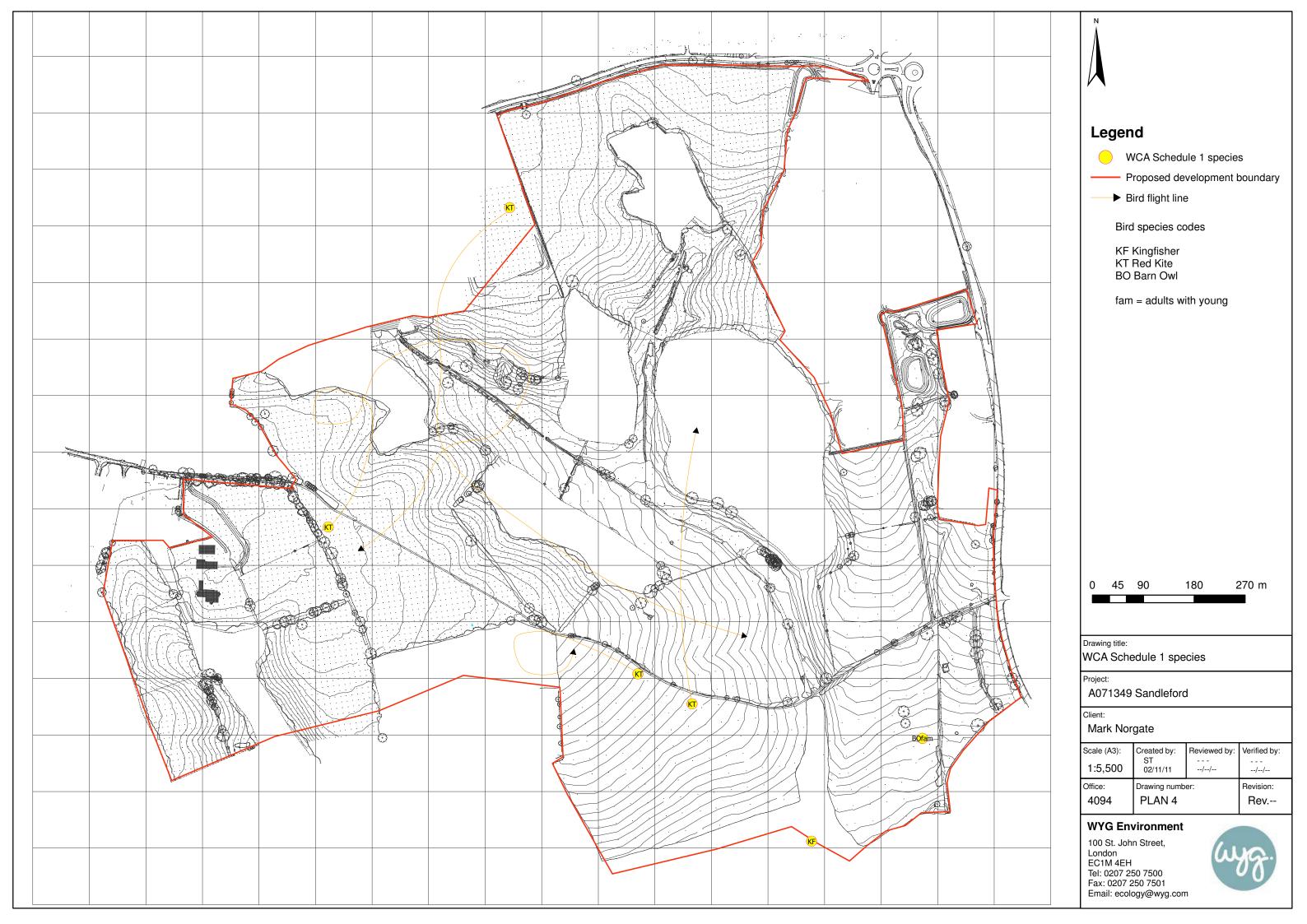


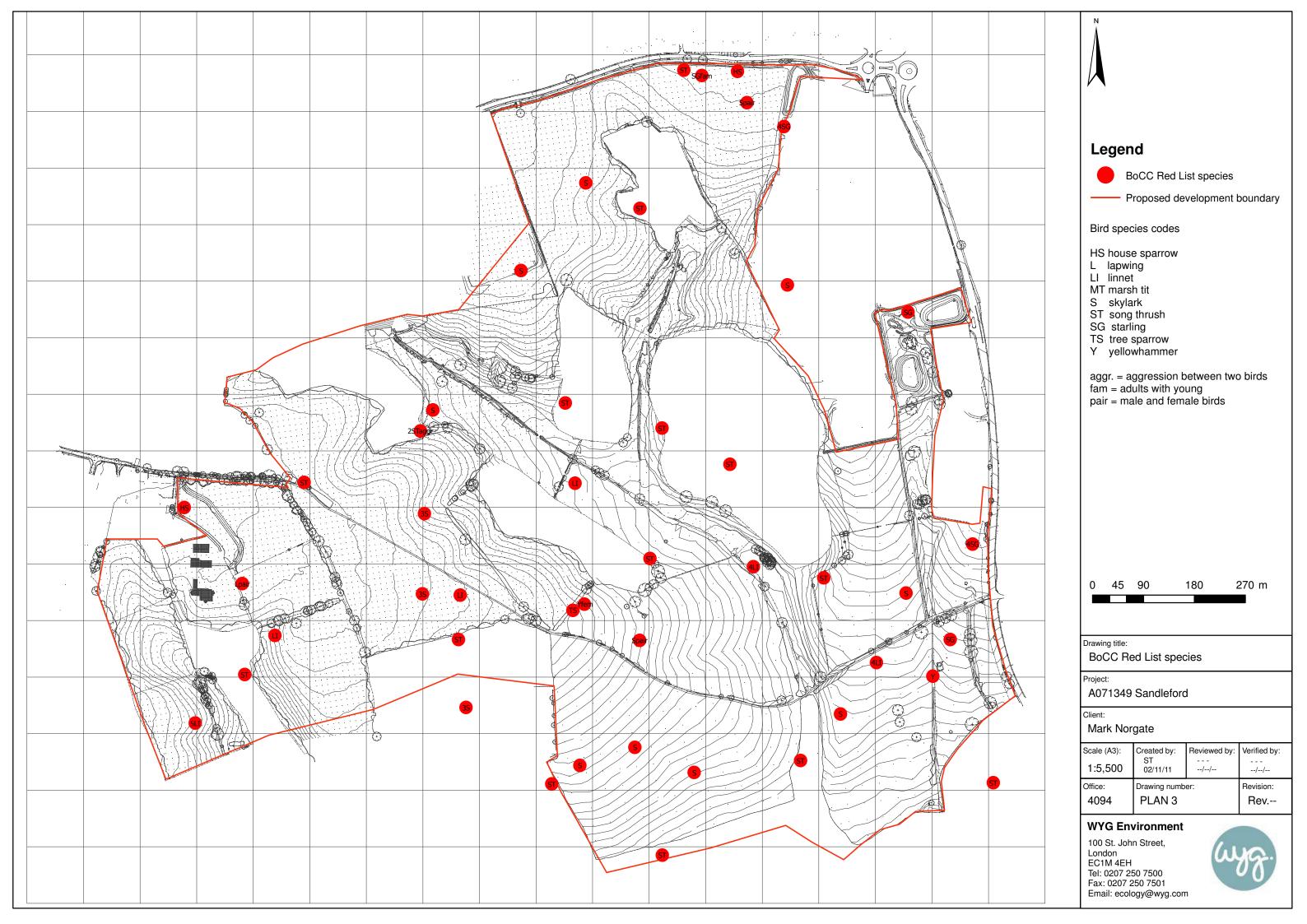
Common Name	Scientific Name	BTO Code	Potentially breeding within site	BoCC status	W&CA Schedule 1	NERC Section 41	Notes
Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	PH	Yes	n/a	No	No	Widespread as introduced for sport; also likely to breed to some extent.
Red-legged partridge	Alectoris rufa	RL	Yes	n/a	No	No	Recorded occasionally, likely introduced for sport; potential to breed.

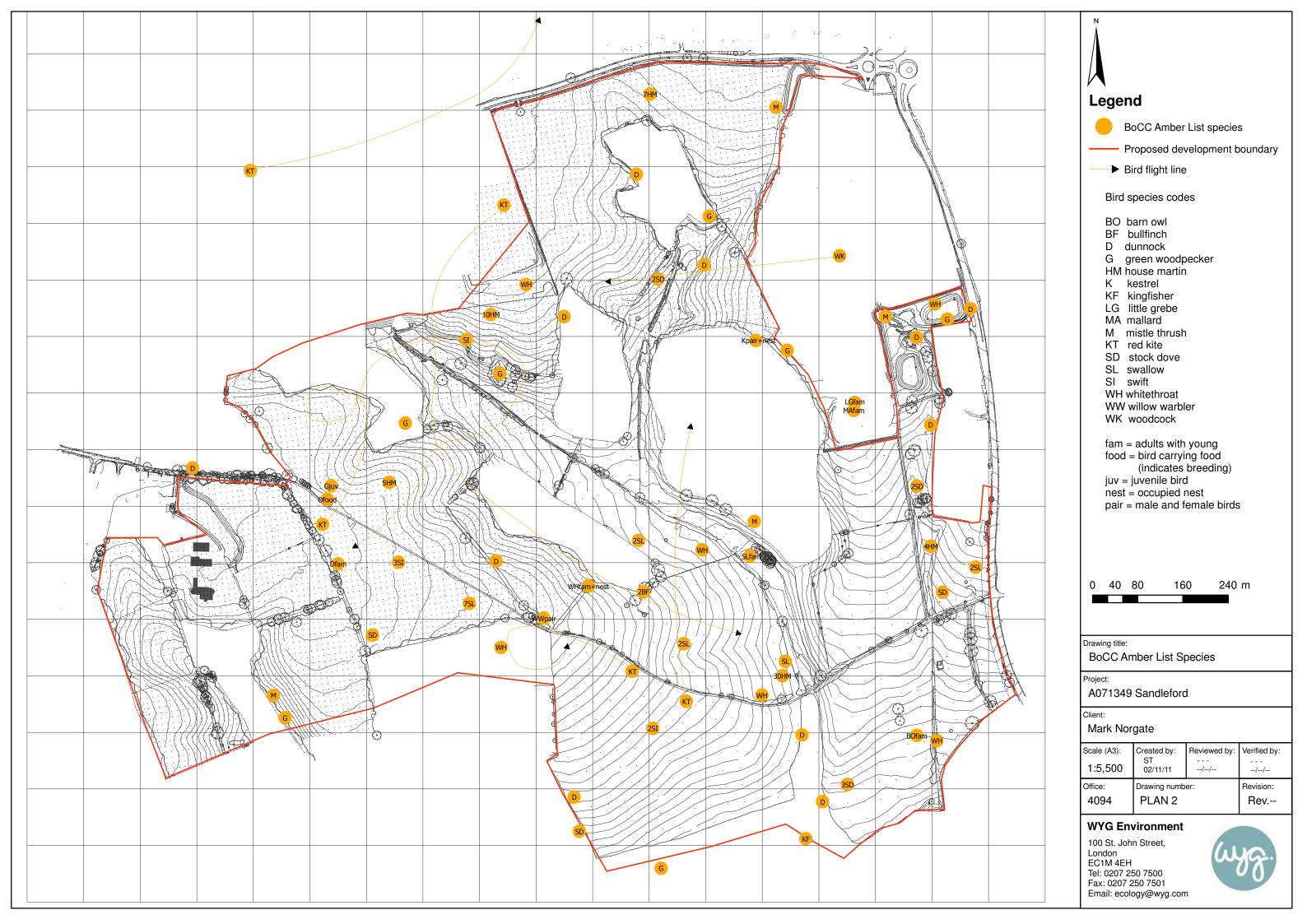


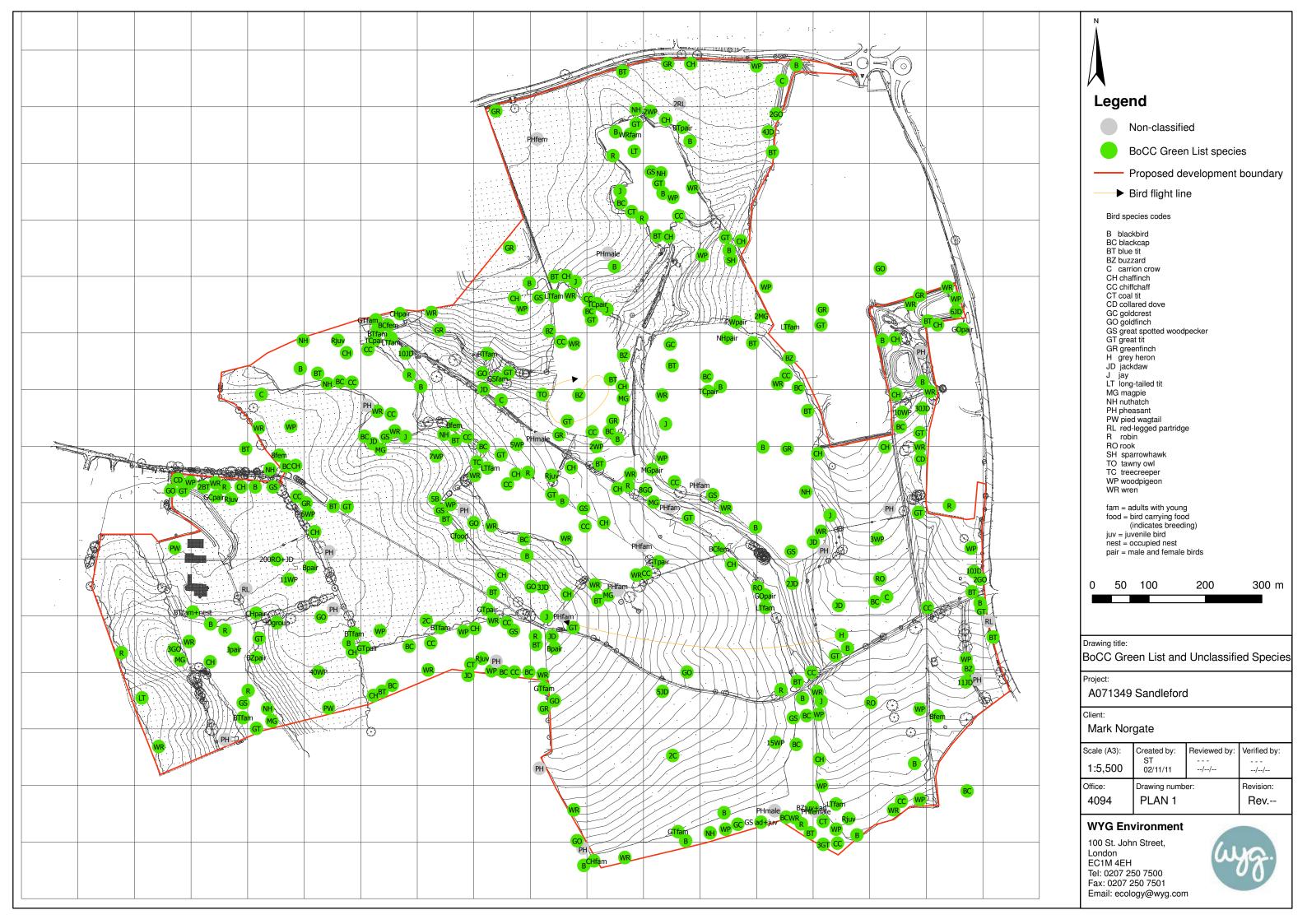
Appendix C – 2011 Breeding Bird Survey Results Plans

- i) WCA Schedule 1 species
- ii) BoCC Red List species
- iii) BoCC Amber List species
- iv) BoCC Green List species





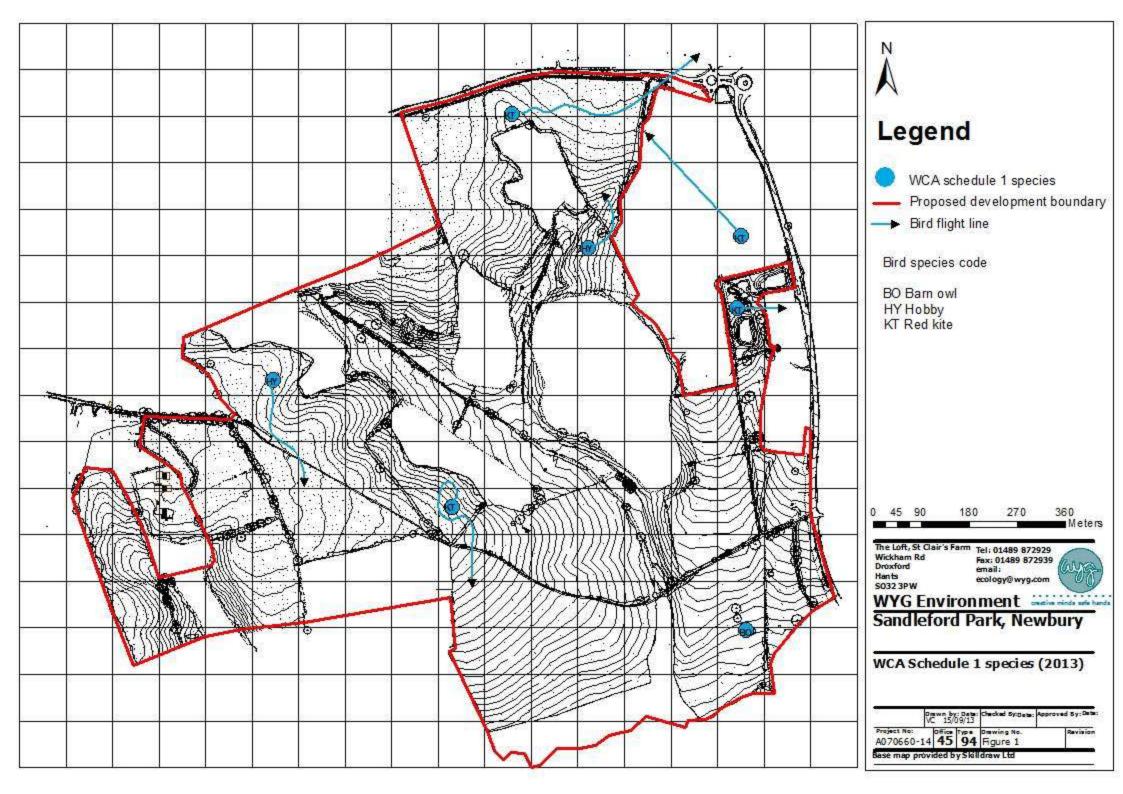






Appendix D – 2013 Breeding Bird Survey Results Plans

- i) WCA Schedule 1 species
- ii) BoCC Red List species
- iii) BoCC Amber List species
- iv) BoCC Green List species







Legend

BoCC Red list species (2013)

Proposed development boundary

Bird flight line

Bird species codes

HS House sparrow

L Lapwing

MT Marsh fit

S Skylark

ST Song thrush

SG Starling

Y Yellowhammer

Food - Seen carrying food Display - Breeding display

The Loft, St Clair's Farm

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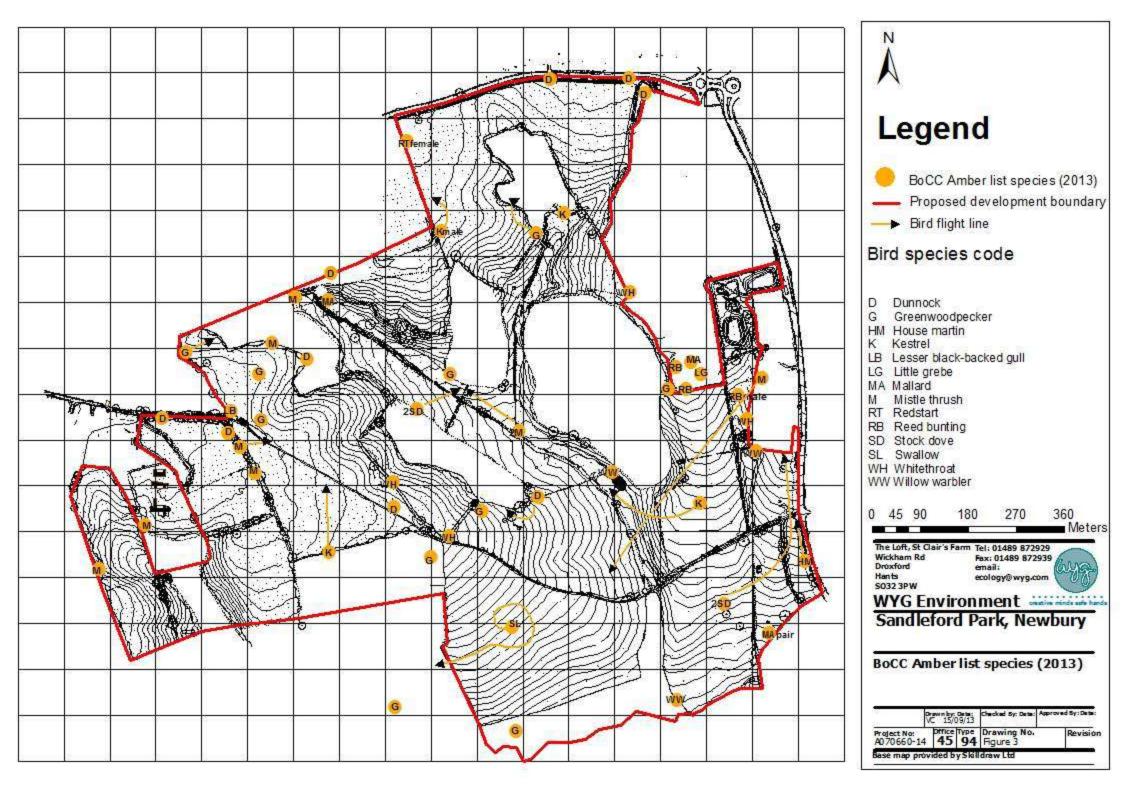
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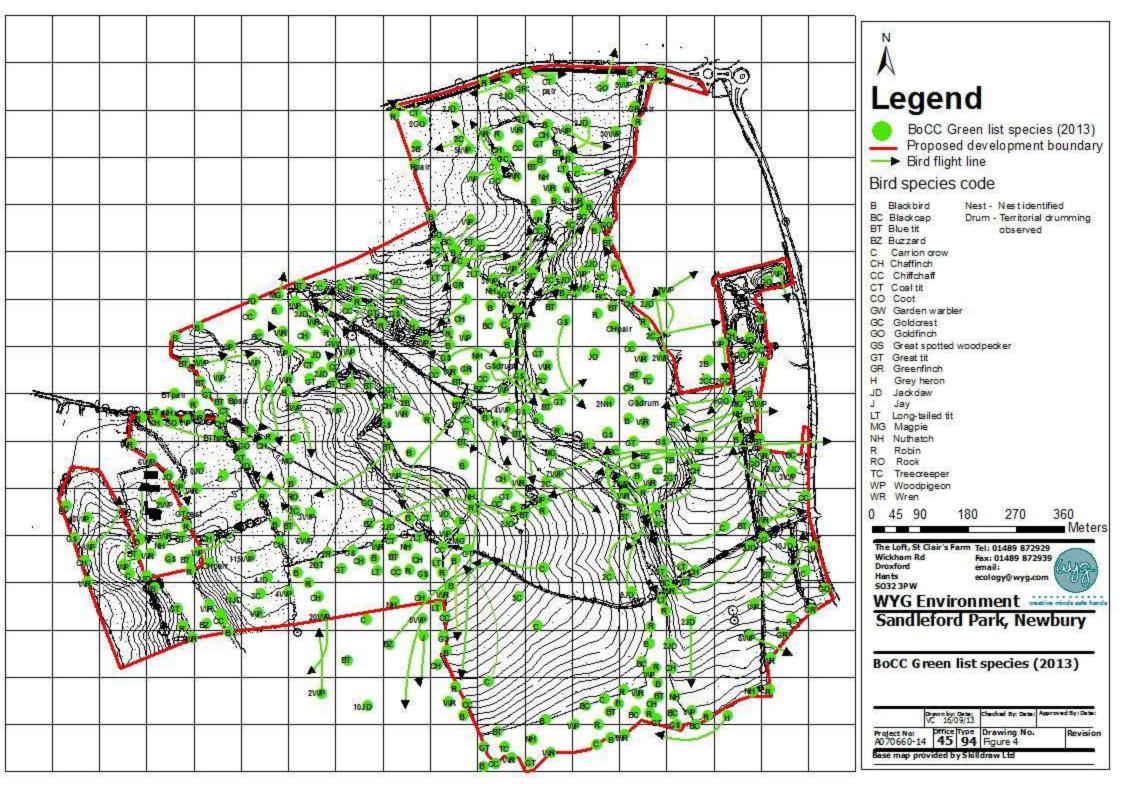
WYG Environment

Sandleford Park, Newbury

BoCC Red list species (2013)

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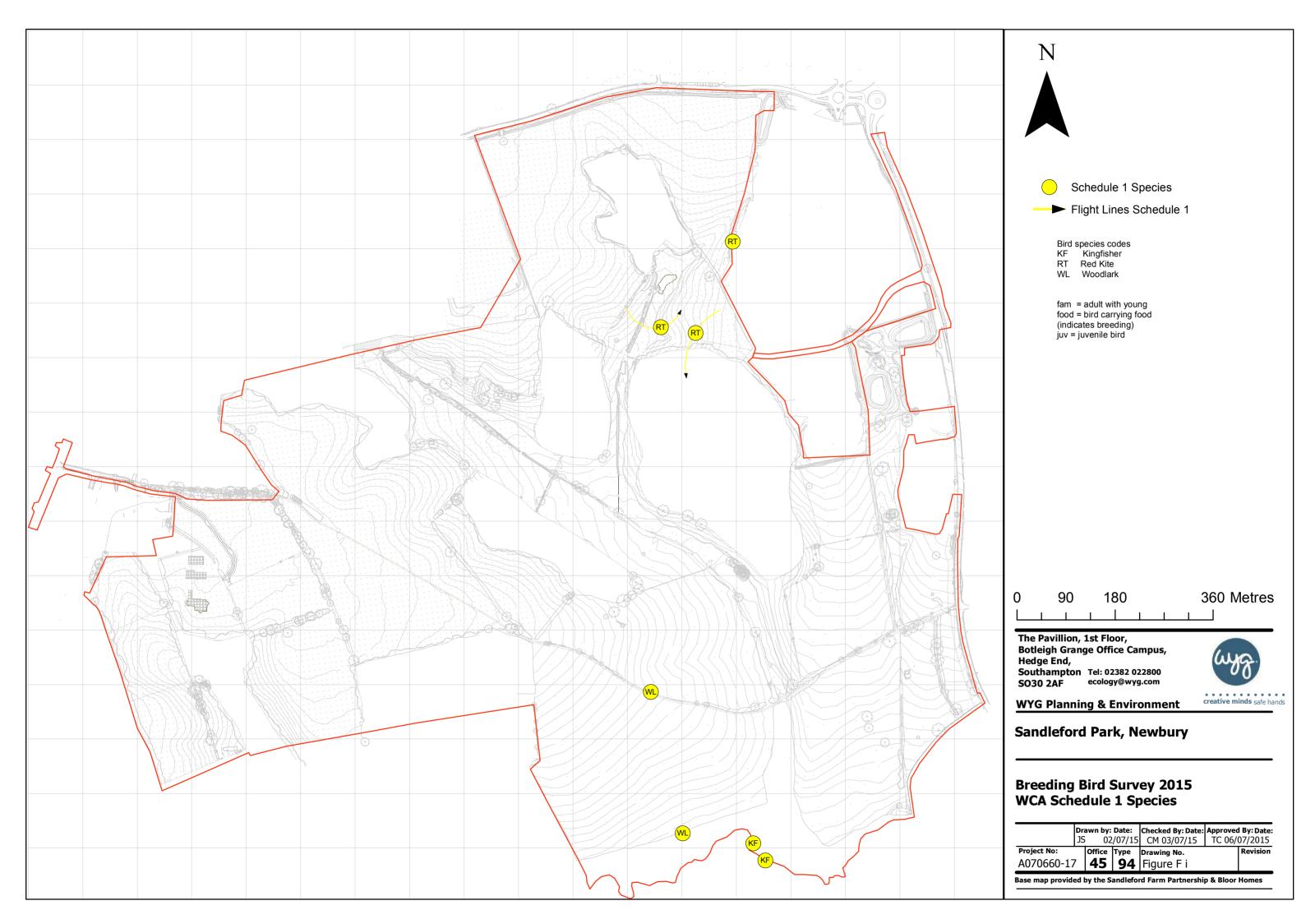


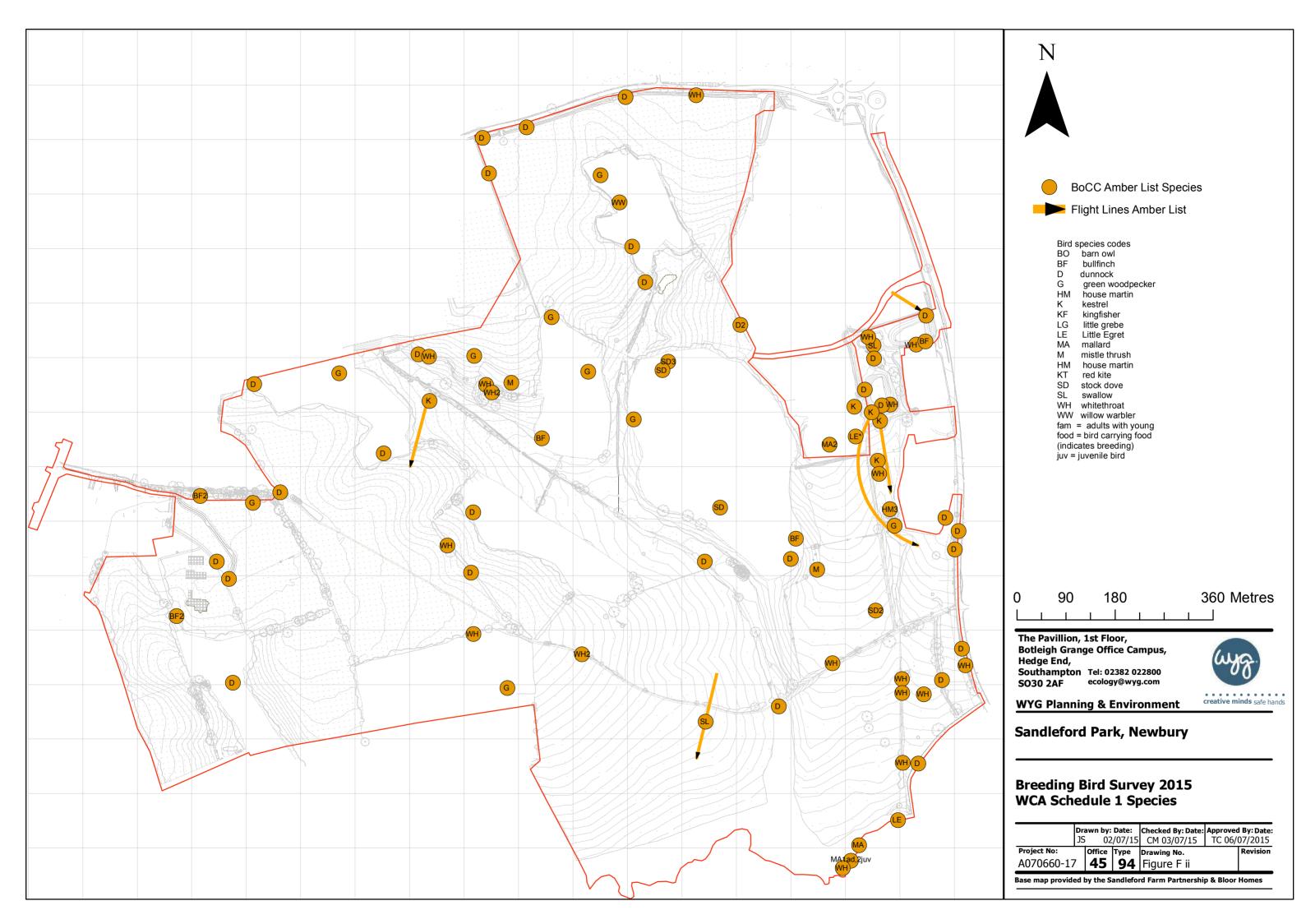


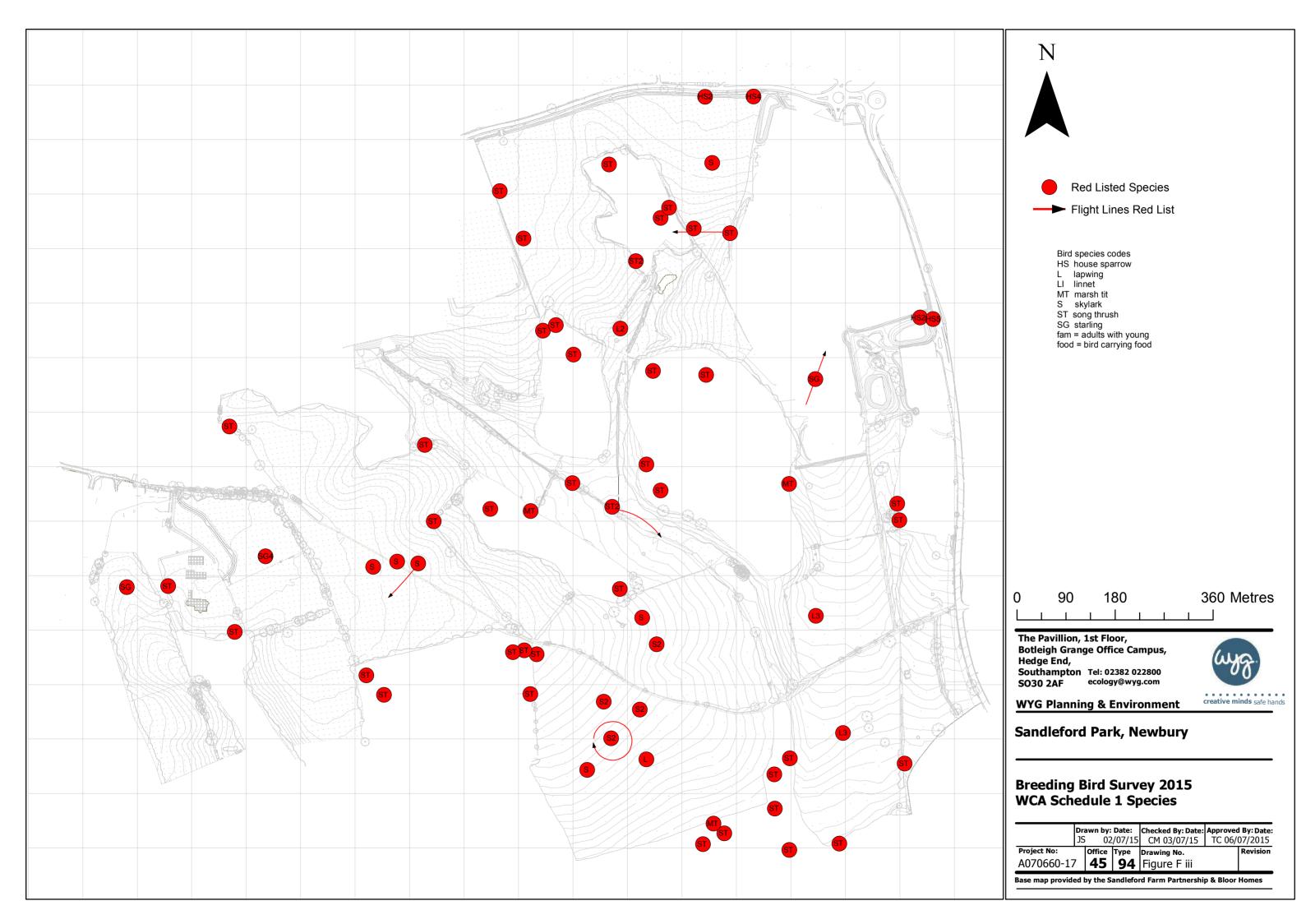


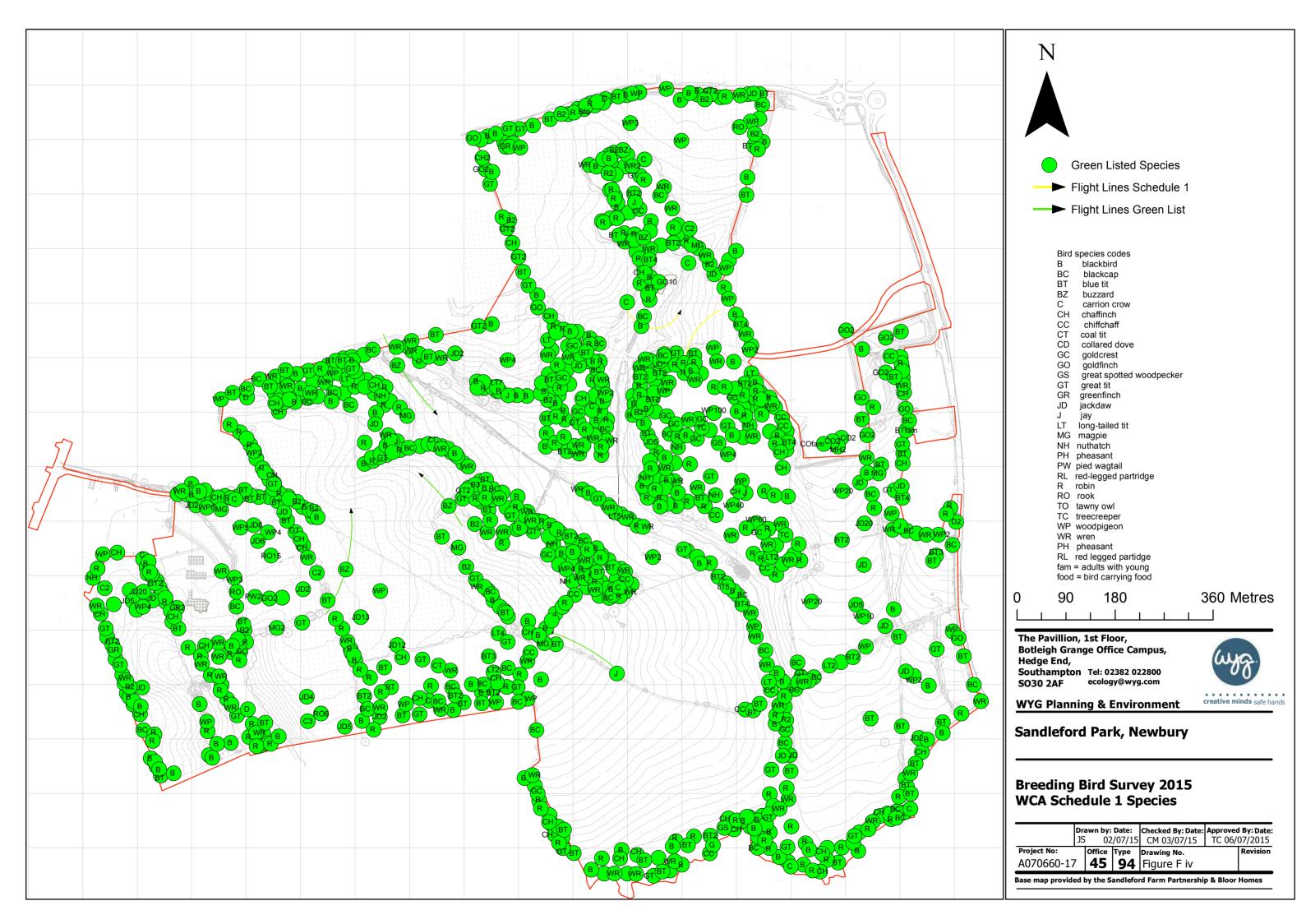
Appendix E — 2015 Breeding Bird Survey Results Plans

- i) WCA Schedule 1 species
- ii) BoCC Red List species
- iii) BoCC Amber List species
- iv) BoCC Green List species





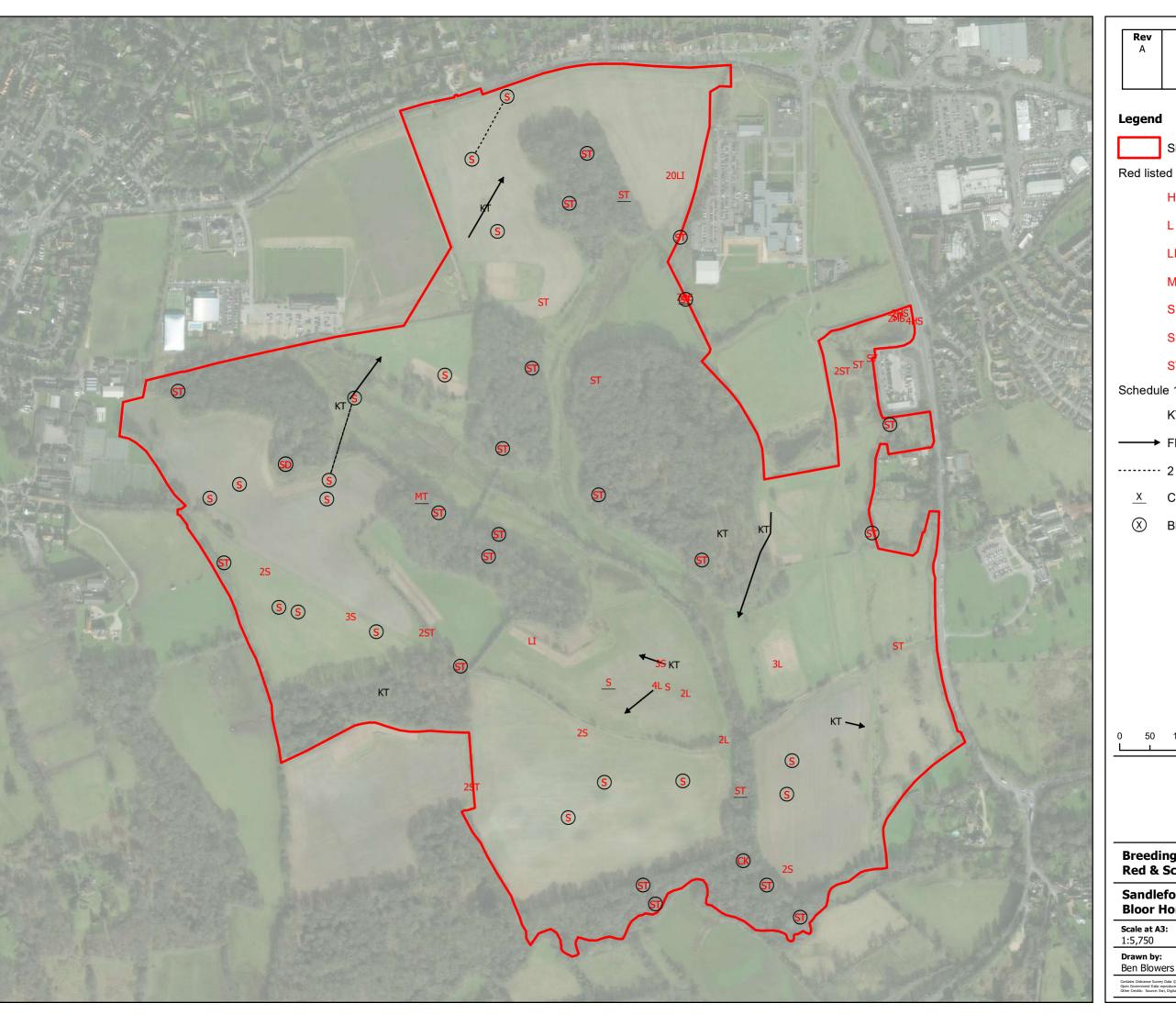






Appendix F – 2018 Breeding Bird Survey Results Plans

- i) WCA Schedule 1 species / BoCCRed List species
- iii) BoCC Amber List species



Date 25/10/18 Notes Initial map production

Legend

Site boundary

Red listed birds

HS - House Sparrow

L - Lapwing

LI - Linnet

MT - Marsh Tit

S - Skylark

SD - Stock Dove

ST - Song Thrush

Schedule 1 birds

KT - Red Kite

→ Flight arrow

----- 2 birds in song at same time

Calling bird

Bird in song

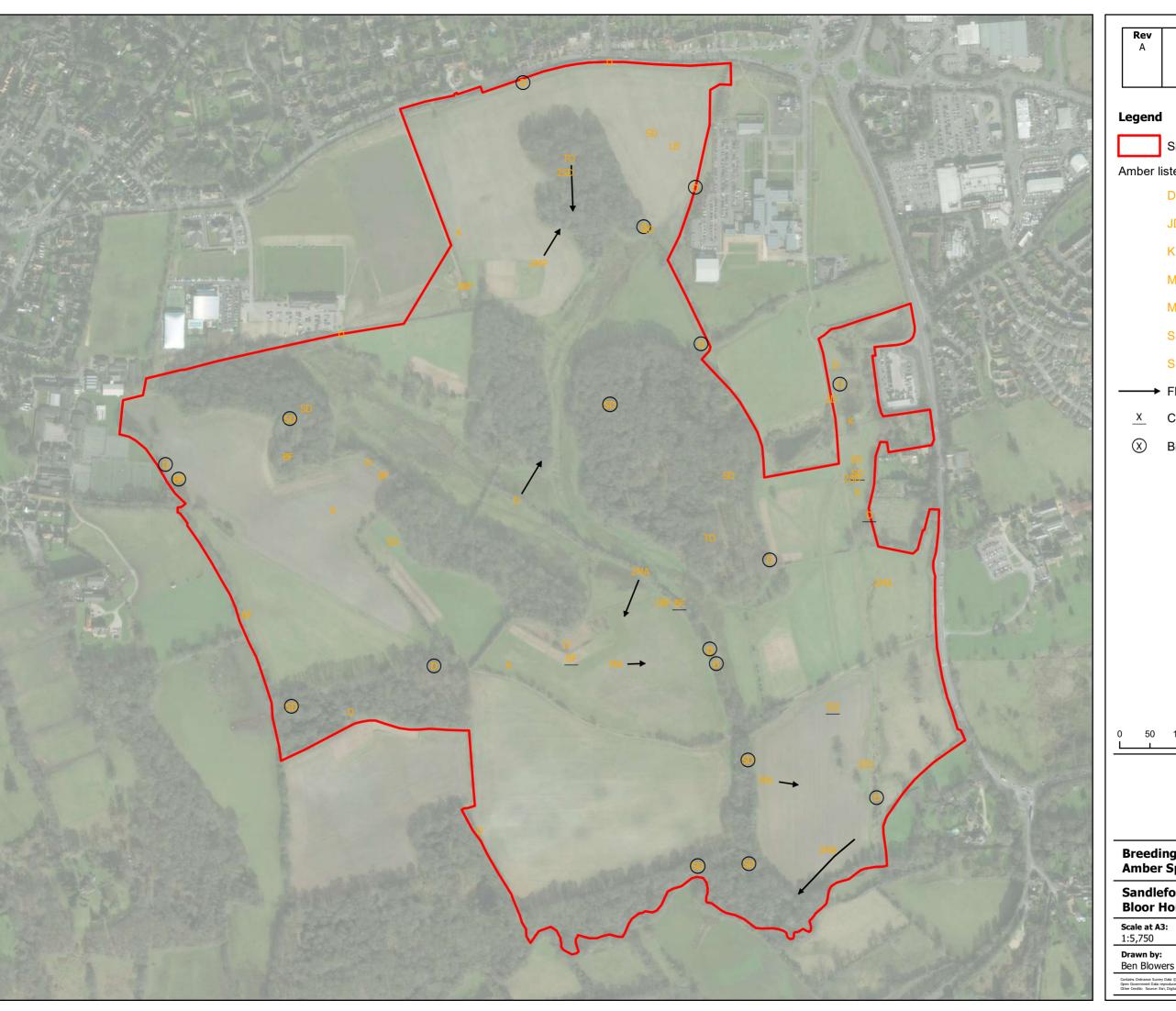
300 Metres 200



Breeding Bird Survey Red & Schedule 1 Species

Sandleford Park, Newbury Bloor Homes & Sandleford Farm Partnership

Scale at A3: 1:5,750	Project A0706		Drav Figu	ving No: re 1	Revision:
Drawn by: Ben Blowers		Drawn d 25/10/2		Approved by: John Simper	



Date 25/10/18 **Notes**Initial map production

Legend

Site boundary

Amber listed birds

D - Dunnock

JD - Jackdaw

K - Kestrel

MA - Mallard

MP - Meadow Pipit

SD - Stock Dove

SI - Swift

→ Flight arrow

Calling bird

Bird in song

300 Metres



Breeding Bird Survey Amber Species

Sandleford Park, Newbury Bloor Homes & Sandleford Farm Partnership

Scale at A3: 1:5,750	Project A0706		Drawing No: Figure 2		Revision:	
Drawn by: Ben Blowers		Drawn d 25/10/2		Approved by: John Simper		



Appendix G – Artificial Nest Boxes

Sandleford Park, Newbury: Breeding Bird Survey



Bird nest boxes

The following briefly summarises three of the most common nesting box types used. There are many other designs, particular to the nesting preferences of the various species. For detailed information of the various nest box designs, please refer to Extracts from BTO Guide 23, Nestboxes (1993 edition) by Chris du Feu, available at:

http://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u15/downloads/publications/quides/nestbox.pdf

Open Fronted Boxes

This box is attractive to robins, pied wagtails, spotted flycatcher, wrens and black redstarts and is best sited on the walls of buildings with the entrance on one side. These woodcrete boxes are designed to mimic natural nest sites and provide a stable environment for chick rearing and winter roosting. They can be expected to last 25 years or more without maintenance.

Boxes with Entrance Holes

This box is attractive to smaller birds such as tits, wrens and tree sparrows. Sparrow terraces are also available.

Wedge shaped boxes

These boxes are attractive to a range of small birds but are particularly attractive to treecreepers as the box mimics crevices under loose bark that are used by this species.

Barn Owl Nest Box

This nest box is specifically designed for nesting barn owls. In the UK owl boxes now account for three-quarters of the nest sites used by Barn Owls.

Tawny Owl Box

Tawny owls uses small nest cavities that barn owls and thus the boxes tend to be smaller – tawny owl boxes are always sited on trees.

Little Owl Box

Little owls use fairly large boxes but with a small entrance hole and a dark nesting chamber. Typically these are installed on trees or buildings







