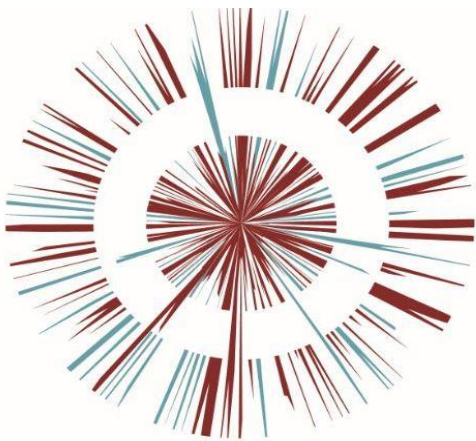




# OMEGA ZONE 8, ST HELENS

Omega St Helens Ltd / T. J. Morris Limited



Document Title  
ES Vol. 2 Appendix 9.16 Breeding  
Bird Survey Results  
Document No. OPP DOC.11.22n

Ecological Assessments

Environmental Statements (Biodiversity)

Species Surveys

Phase I Habitat Survey

National Vegetation Classification

Planning Guidance

Habitat Regulation Assessment

Protected Species Licensing

42020 CEMP: Biodiversity

BREEAM LE01 - 05

# Breeding Bird Report

**Omega Zone 8**

St Helens



Consultant Report on behalf of:



#### REPORT STATUS

ISSUE/REVISION	1: DRAFT TO CLIENT	2: FINAL	3: AMENDED FINAL
Project No.	169-03		
Report No.	16903_BBS_A		
Date	01/10/2019		
Prepared by	MM		
Signature			
Reviewed by	AA		
Signature			

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. The following report has been prepared on behalf of Omega Warrington Ltd and provides the results of breeding bird surveys undertaken at Omega Zone 8, St Helens ('The Site').
- 1.1.2. A suite of ecological surveys were undertaken on site during 2019.

## 1.2. LOCATION

- 1.2.1. The Site forms part of the Omega business estate located west of Warrington, falling just within St Helens Borough. It is immediately south of the M62, west of Junction 8, and immediately west of the Warrington District County boundary and Lingley Mere. To the south

## 1.3. PROPOSALS

- 1.3.1. This is a hybrid application for full and outline planning permission:
- 1.3.2. *Hybrid Planning Application*
  - i. Full Planning Permission for the erection of a B8 logistics warehouse, with ancillary offices, associated parking, infrastructure, and landscaping; and
  - ii. Outline Planning Permission for Manufacturing (B2) and Logistics (B8) development with ancillary offices and associated access infrastructure works (detailed matters of appearance; layout and scale are reserved for subsequent approval)

## 1.4. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.4.1. The Site (~75.5 ha) is dominated by arable land with woodland belts, a network of ponds and ditches improved grassland and scrub habitat present. A brook runs through the centre of the Site from the northwest and adjoins to the southern boundary. Off-site woodland is present to the south and west of the Site and a woodland belt forms the eastern boundary.

## **1.5. LEGISLATION**

- 1.5.1. Generally, all birds, their nests, eggs and unfledged young are protected from harm (not disturbance) by Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Further protection is afforded to birds listed under Schedule 1 of the Act which prohibits disturbance of those species listed under Schedule 1.



Figure 1

Location

Phases 4-7 Omega South

Legend

- Development Site
- Site Location



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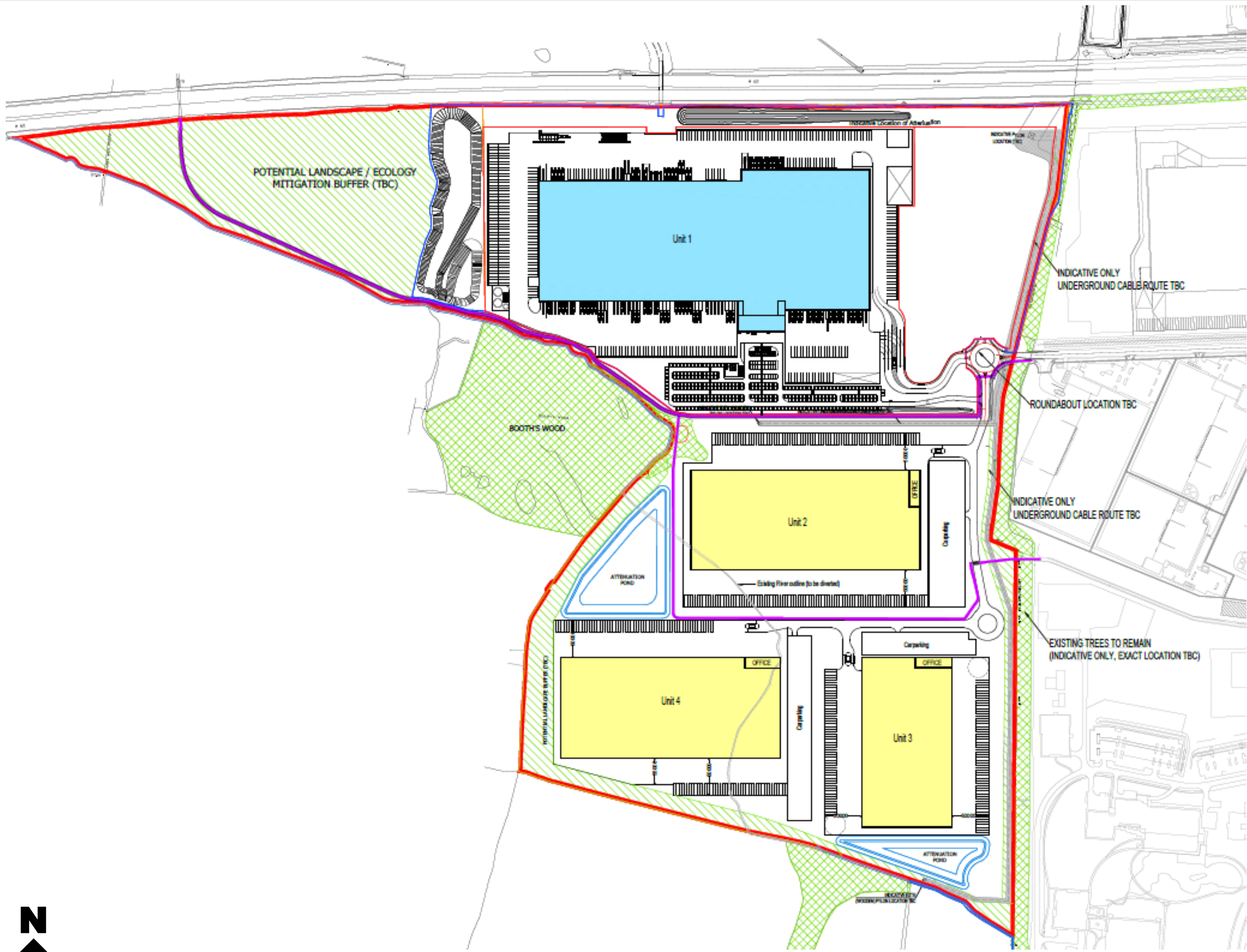
Figure 2

Masterplan  
Proposals  
(indicative)

Legend



Development Site



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## 2. SURVEY METHODS

### 2.1. DESK STUDY

#### Data Search

- 2.1.1. A desk study included a data trawl of all protected and notable species within 2km of the Site boundaries, Statutory Designated Sites within 5km of the Site boundaries, Non-Statutory Sites within 2km of the Site boundaries, and Priority Habitats within 1km of the Site.
- 2.1.2. All records were obtained from two cross-border sources; Merseyside BioBank Records<sup>1</sup> (St Helens) and RECORD LRC<sup>2</sup> (Warrington/Cheshire). Information requested included location and details of any bird species records.

### 2.2. FIELD SURVEY

The applicant site was visited 2 times between April and June 2019 inclusive, opportunistically recording in a 'look-see' manner in accordance with Bibby *et al.* 2000<sup>3</sup>, applied by experienced ornithologists.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://activenaturalist.org.uk/mbb>

<sup>2</sup> [www.record-lrc.co.uk](http://www.record-lrc.co.uk)

<sup>3</sup> Bibby, C.J., Burgess, N.D., Hill, D.A. & Mustoe, S. 2000. Bird Census Techniques. Second Edition. Academic Press, London.

## 3. RESULTS

### 3.1. BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS

Survey 1 – 25/04/2019 (Weather conditions: Temp: 16°C; Wind: B1; Showers with scattered sunshine)

- 3.1.1. 20 bird species were recorded on site. 17 of these species were found either within suitable breeding habitat or displaying breeding behaviour. This included lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), a species listed under BoCC with 'Red' status<sup>4</sup>, of which 7 individuals were observed using the Site, and oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) a species with 'Amber' status. Several more common species were observed displaying breeding behaviour such as long-tailed tits (*Aegitholos caudatus*), goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) and wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).
- 3.1.2. Additional observations were made for yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*), a priority species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act, off-site to the east, where a pair showed courting behaviour. A previous site visit found a single yellowhammer foraging on the ground within the site boundary. A great spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) was heard 'drumming' off-site to the south.

Survey 2 – 28/06/2019 (Weather conditions: Temp: 23°C; Wind: 0; Clear & bright)

- 3.1.3. A total of 19 species were recorded using the Site during the second bird breeding survey, of which, 14 were considered to display breeding behaviour or were located within suitable breeding habitat. Song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), listed as 'Red' under BoCC, dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*), an 'Amber' species listed under BoCC and a S41 priority species, and oystercatcher were included within this list of potential breeders.

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<sup>4</sup> Eaton MA, Aebischer NJ, Brown AF, Hearn RD, Lock L, Musgrove AJ, Noble DG, Stroud DA and Gregory RD (2015) Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. *British Birds* 108, 708–746.

- 3.1.4. Additional observations were made for skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), a S41 priority species and species listed as 'Red' under BoCC, and great spotted woodpecker which were noted south of the Site within agricultural land and woodland, respectively.

#### **Barn Owl**

- 3.1.5. No field signs or sightings of barn owls (*Tyta alba*) were made during scoping surveys or during multiple dusk surveys for bats on site. Suitable foraging habitat is present along woodland edges where short strips of grassland are present.

#### **Additional Breeding Bird Observations**

- 3.1.6. During site visits exclusive of breeding bird surveys, observations were made of a pair of grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*), a S41 priority species and listed as 'Red' under BoCC, as using the Site. Breeding Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) were also noted using the Site and observed sitting on a nest.
- 3.1.7. A roosting tawny owl (*Strix aluco*) was observed roosting within a tree cavity during bat endoscope surveys in 2019.

**Table 1: Breeding Survey Species List (visit 1)**

Species Code	Common Name	Latin Name	BoCC Status	S41
WR	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		
GO	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		
R.	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		
MG	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		
B.	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		
RO	Rook	<i>Corvus fragilegus</i>		
GT	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>		
BT	Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		
WP	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		
L.	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red	✓
C.	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		
MH	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		
CH	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		



Species Code	Common Name	Latin Name	BoCC Status	S41
H.	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		
BZ	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		
MA	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		
LT	Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		
OC	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Amber	
PH	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		
Y.	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red	✓
GS	Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		

**Table 2: Breeding Survey Species List (visit 2)**

Species Code	Common Name	Latin Name	BoCC Status	S41
WR	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		
GO	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		
R.	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		
MG	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		
B.	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		
CC	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		
GT	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>		
BT	Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		
WP	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		
PW	Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		
C.	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		
D.	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber	✓
SL	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		
CH	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		
BC	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		
BZ	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		
ST	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Red	✓

Species Code	Common Name	Latin Name	BoCC Status	S41
MA	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		
OC	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	<b>Amber</b>	
PH	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		
S.	Sky lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	<b>Red</b>	✓

Figure 3

Bird Survey #1  
Map

Omega Zone 8

Legend



Development Site



Area not included within survey

CH, CH ♂, CH ♀ Chaffinch sight records, with age, sex or number of birds if appropriate.  
3CHjuve, CH2♂, 1♀ Use CH ♂ to indicate one pair of Chaffinches, so that: 2CH ♂ means two pairs together.  
R fam Juvenile Robins with parent(s) in attendance  
R A calling Robin  
R A Robin repeatedly giving alarm calls or other vocalisations (not song)  
R A Robin in song  
R A aggressive encounter between two Robins  
\*R An occupied nest of Robins. Do not mark unoccupied nests, which are not of territorial significance by themselves  
BT Blue tits nesting in a specially provided site. Please remember to use this special symbol for a nest in a nestbox.  
\*PW on Pied Wagtail nest with adult sitting  
PW mat Pied Wagtail carrying nest material  
PW food Pied Wagtail carrying food

Movements of birds can be indicated by an arrow using the following conventions:  
GR → A calling Greenfinch flying over (seen only in flight)  
D → A singing Dunnock, perched then flying away (not seen to land)  
B♂ → A male blackbird flying in and landing (first seen in flight)  
WR → WR A Wren moving between two perches. The solid line indicates that it was definitely the same bird.  
The following conventions indicate which registrations relate to different, and which to the same individual birds. Their proper use will be essential for the accurate assessment of clusters.  
WR ..... WR Two Wrens in song at the same time, i.e. definitely different birds. The dotted line indicates a simultaneous registration (or contemporary contact) and is of very great value in separating territories.



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Figure 4

Bird Survey #2  
Map

Omega Zone 8

Legend



Development Site

CH, CH ♂, CH ♀	Chaffinch sight records, with age, sex or number of birds if appropriate.
3CHjuve, CH2♂, 1♀	Use CH ♂ to indicate one pair of Chaffinches, so that: 2CH ♂ means two pairs together.
R fam	Juvenile Robins with parent(s) in attendance
R	A calling Robin
R	A Robin repeatedly giving alarm calls or other vocalisations (not song) thought to have strong territorial significance
(R)	A Robin in song
↖ ↗	An aggressive encounter between two Robins
*R	An occupied nest of Robins. Do not mark unoccupied nests, which are not territorial significance by themselves
BT	Blue tits nesting in a specially provided site. Please remember to use this special symbol for a nest in a nestbox.
*PW on	Pied Wagtail nest with adult sitting
PW on	Pied Wagtail carrying nest material
PW food	Pied Wagtail carrying food

Movements of birds can be indicated by an arrow using the following conventions:

GR →	A calling Greenfinch flying over (seen only in flight)
(D) →	A singing Dunnock, perched then flying away (not seen to land)
→ B ♂	A male blackbird flying in and landing (first seen in flight)
WR → WR	A Wren moving between two perches. The solid line indicates that it was definitely the same bird.

The following conventions indicate which registrations relate to different, and which to the same individual birds. Their proper use will be essential for the accurate assessment of clusters.

(WR) ----- (WR)	Two Wrens in song at the same time, i.e. definitely different birds. The dotted line indicates a simultaneous registration (or contemporary contact) and is of very great value in separating territories.
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## 4. ASSESSMENT

### 4.1. BREEDING BIRDS

#### Non-ground-nesting birds

- 4.1.1. Opportunity exists for breeding birds throughout the Site, with woodland providing a considerable amount of potential breeding habitat. Some scrub habitat is present, but this is generally restricted to field/woodland margins, being small in area and often immature in growth form, therefore less suitable to breeding birds.
- 4.1.2. There is much opportunity present for ground nesting birds (such as lapwing) across the Site within arable land.

#### Unmitigated Impacts

- 4.1.3. If the proposed works take place during the breeding season birds, their nest, eggs and unfledged young may be harmed and the development may cause an unlawful effect.

#### Recommendations

- 4.1.4. All mitigation matters will be addressed within the ES Biodiversity Chapter. However, to ensure legal compliance, the following measures will take place:
- i) Works should not take place during the period 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> August (inclusive); or
  - ii) Bird breeding habitat should be removed outside the bird breeding season; or
  - iii) No clearance of vegetation likely to support nesting birds shall take place between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> August unless a method statement has been agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

#### Ground-nesting birds

- 4.1.5. Lapwing, grey partridge, yellowhammer and skylark have all been found potentially displaying breeding behaviour on or near to the applicant site during breeding bird surveys and other ecological surveys. These are all red-list species and are all listed as Priority species in the S41 list (refer to **Error! Reference source not found.**). A red-list species is one that has been identified by the BTO as being of highest conservation concern (see Eaton et al. 2015).

### **Unmitigated Impacts**

- 4.1.6. These birds will be denied the opportunity to breed in ideal habitat on and surrounding the applicant site in the future; their habitat to be lost to the proposals entirely.

### **Recommendations**

- 4.1.7. All mitigation matters will be addressed within the ES Biodiversity Chapter.

the **ecology** Practice

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