

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, WA5 3UG



Consultant Report on behalf of:

REPORT STATUS

Issue/revision	Issue 1: DRAFT TO CLIENT	Issue 2: FINAL	Issue 3: AMENDED FINAL
Project No.	169-03		
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Date	04 TH March 2020		
Prepared by	JC		
Signature			
Reviewed by			
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').

1.2 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.

1.3 PROPOSALS

- 1.3.1 This is a hybrid application for full and outline planning permission:

Hybrid Planning Application

- i. Full Planning Permission for the erection of a B8 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 car parking, landscaping and infrastructure (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

Omega Zone 8, St Helens

Legend



Development Site



Site Location



Drawing No.: 16903-1BBS_A

Revision Dates			
A	B	C	D
10/10/2019			

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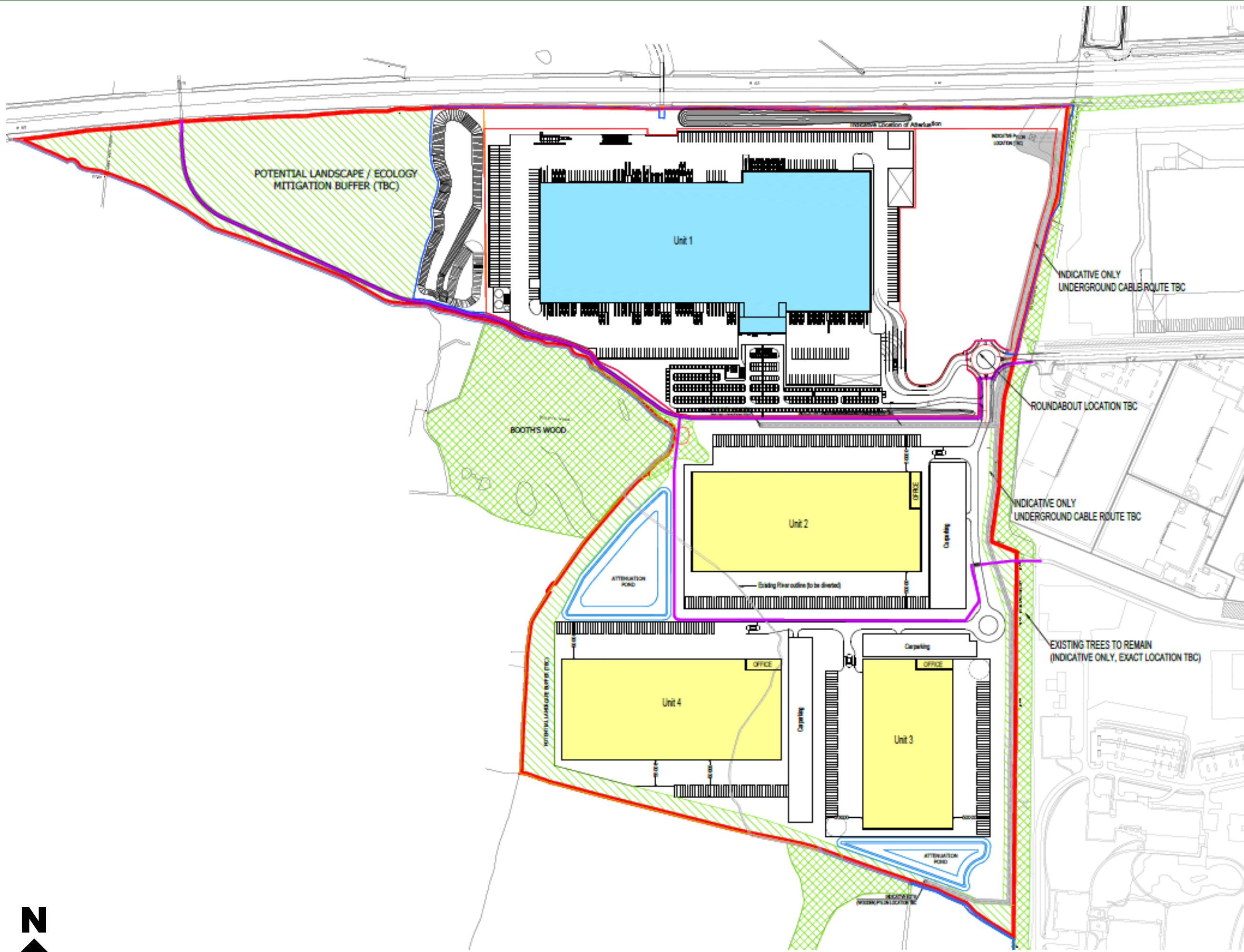
Figure 2
Masterplan
Proposals
(indicative)

Omega Zone 8, St Helens

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 Records¹ (St Helens) and RECORD LRC² (Warrington/Cheshire). Information requested included location and details of any bird species records.

FIELD SURVEY

- 2.1.3 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. 2000³, applied by experienced ornithologists.

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

² www.record-lrc.co.uk

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

3 RESULTS

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' status⁴, 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.
- 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.

⁴ 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.

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. The Site is generally well suited to barn owl with plenty of opportunity for foraging and roosting, notably along woodland edges and ditches. Fields margins offer occasional foraging opportunity.

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</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>		
H.	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		
BZ	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		
MA	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		

Species Code	Common Name	Latin Name	BoCC Status	S41
LT	Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		
OC	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus</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</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</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	✓
MA	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		
OC	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus</i>	Amber	
PH	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		
S.	Sky lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red	✓

Figure 3

Bird Survey #1

Map

Omega Zone 8, St Helens

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) thought to have strong territorial significance
R A Robin in song
R 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 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 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 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, St Helens

Legend



Development Site

- CH, CH ♂, CH ♀ Chaffinch sight records, with age, sex or number of birds if appropriate.
3CHjuv, 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
R 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 nest with adult sitting
PW mat Pied Wagtail carrying nest material
PW food Pied Wagtail carrying food

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- 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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WELSH NEWTON COMMON

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NP25 5RT