



FUTURESECOLOGY

JT Energy Storage (Windel Energy)

BESS Egremont, Cumbria

WINTER BIRD SURVEY REPORT

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Futures Ecology Ltd

Carrwood Park, Swillington Common Farm, Selby Rd, Leeds LS15 4LG

Company Number: 12125083

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REV	Issue Status	Author or Reviewer	Name & Qualifications	Position	Date
-	Draft 1	Author	T.Ord BSc (Hons) MSc	Assistant Ecologist	01.12.2024
		Reviewer	E.Padmore BSc (Hons)	Ecologist	14.05.2025
	Final	Reviewer	A.Eales BSc (Hons)	Ecology Director	15.05.2025

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1.0 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Wintering bird surveys were undertaken in 2024/25 on land off Dalzell Street, north of Egremont, Cumbria (grid reference: NY 00891 13778). Onsite habitats, such as poor semi-improved grassland and broadleaved trees provide suitable foraging and roosting habitat for wintering birds.
- 1.2 Following 8 wintering bird surveys, undertaken between December 2024 and March 2025, a total of 38 species were identified utilising the survey area (including 200m buffer). Of these, 22 are species of conservation concern, and 5 of which were found to utilise the onsite habitats. The wintering bird assemblage is therefore considered to be of importance at up to a **Local** level.
- 1.3 The proposals will result in the loss of poor-semi improved grassland. Prior to mitigation, the development will therefore result in a temporary reduction in suitable foraging and roosting habitat, temporarily displacing the bird species using the Site, until compensatory habitats become fully established.
- 1.4 Following the establishment of new habitat enhancements, the Site will continue to support the existing wintering bird assemblage, with the potential to attract new species.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The following report has been prepared by Futures Ecology Ltd. on behalf of JT Energy Storage (Windel Energy). It provides the results of Wintering Bird Surveys (WBS) that were undertaken on land off Dalzell Street, north of Egremont, Cumbria (grid reference: NY 00891 13778) in support of a planning application for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated buried cable route.
- 2.2 The key objectives of the wintering bird surveys undertaken to date are to determine the presence or absence of wintering bird species of conservation concern within habitats affected by the proposed scheme for the purposes of assessing ecological impacts.

SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

- 2.3 The Site comprises land to the east of Dalzell Street between the villages of Bigrigg, Cleator and Moor Row (NGR: E: 300842, N: 513769). The larger settlements of Egremont, Cleator Moor and Whitehaven are all located within a 5km radius of the Site. The Lake District National Park boundary lies approximately 2.7km to the north-east. The Site is wholly located within the administrative boundary of Cumberland Council.
- 2.4 The Site boundary including the underground cable route to the point of connection at Woodend substation measures 1.18ha. The proposed cable route will follow Dalzell Street southwards to the point of connection at Woodend substation.
- 2.5 The Site area, excluding the cable route, wherein the Proposed Development will be located will be approximately 0.58ha. The Site area for the triangular field to the northern portion of the Site is to be used for BNG purposes and is 0.32ha.
- 2.6 The Site comprises pasture land, which has most recently been used for the grazing of livestock. The Site is split across two fields, separated by an access track. The Site boundaries are demarcated by hedgerow and scattered trees.
- 2.7 Access to the Site is via the existing track taken from Dalzell Street, a local road. Dalzell Street connects with the A5086 and the A595, approximately 1 – 1.25km to the south of the Site.
- 2.8 The Site is adjoined to the eastern boundary by National Cycle Route 72, a long-distance route, which connects Ravenglass, Cumbria with South Shields, Tyne & Wear. To the north and south of the Site is agricultural land. To the western boundary is Dalzell Street.
- 2.9 Habitats in the main BESS Site comprise semi-improved grassland with some scattered scrub, a short treeline, and a dry ditch. The cable route is entirely hardstanding. The main BESS Site lies directly west of a narrow stretch of woodland along an embankment, through which the long-distance National Cycle Route 72 passes.
- 2.10 Landscape immediately around the Site comprises mostly agricultural land, and beyond are the small rural villages of Moor Row (c. 480m northwest), Cleator (c. 675m east), and Bigrigg (c. 732m west).

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 2.11 Proposals comprise the clearance of the pasture land to facilitate the construction of a 30MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development with associated ancillary structures, hardstanding, landscape screening and biodiversity enhancements. A buried cable route will be installed along Dalzell Street to the point of grid connection at the existing Woodend Substation to the south of the Site.
- 2.12 For the purpose of this impact assessment only the BESS impacts are discussed regarding wintering bird species, as works along the cable route are not expected to impact the wintering bird assemblage.

BESS Site

- 2.13 Two fields separated by an access track comprising the main BESS construction area and associated landscape buffers within the southern field, and the biodiversity enhancement area in the northern field.
- 2.14 Construction within this area will have permanent effects on the baseline habitats and as such, the area has been considered in relation to short-term construction phase impacts as well as long-term / permanent effects of the Proposed Development.

3.0 LEGISLATION, PLANNING POLICY AND CONSERVATION STATUS

- 3.1 This report details the legislative and planning policy context which are of relevance to bird assemblages and the proposed scheme.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- 3.2 Annex I of The European Commission (EC) Birds Directive¹ lists rare and vulnerable wild bird species that are subject to additional conservation measures, including those species which can identify the indication of Special Protection Areas (SPA). Such sites are protected against any activity that could impact upon the qualifying features for which they are designated.
- 3.3 All wild birds, their nests and eggs within the United Kingdom are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) (WCA)². Under this piece of legislation, it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take a wild bird; intentionally take, damage, or destroy the nest of a wild bird while it is in use or being built; intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- 3.4 In addition to that above, species listed under Schedule 1 of the WCA have further protection always afforded to them. The additional protection extends to intentional disturbance whilst building or occupying a nest and disturbance of any young.

¹ Williams G, Pullan D, Dickie I, Huggett D, Mitchell H (2005) The European Birds Directive – safeguarding special places for people and wildlife

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

- 3.5 Species listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006³ are of principal importance for conserving biodiversity in England.

PLANNING POLICY

National Planning Policy

- 3.6 The latest National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁴ sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied within the planning system. It provides a framework for local councils to produce local plans and determine planning applications in order to achieve more sustainable developments. In relation to ecology and biodiversity, Chapter 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment, is of relevance to this report.
- 3.7 The Government Circular, Biodiversity and geological conservation: circular 06/2005⁵, defines statutory nature conservation sites and protected species as a material consideration in the planning process.

Local Planning Policy

- 3.8 Within Egremont all planning decisions are expected to be based on the Copeland Local Plan (2021-2039)⁶, prior to the development of the new Cumberland Local Plan, and the NPPF, with the key local policies concerned with ecology being:
- Strategic Policy N1: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity,
 - Strategic Policy N2: Local Nature Recovery Networks;
 - Strategic Policy N3: Biodiversity Net Gain;
 - Strategic Policy N9: Green Infrastructure; and
 - Policy N14: Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows.

CONSERVATION STATUS AND OTHER GUIDANCE

Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC, 2021)

- 3.9 The RSBP along with a coalition of UK's leading bird conservation and monitoring organisations review the status of regularly occurring bird species in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. A colour coded list *Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)* (Stanbury *et al.* 2021)⁷ is compiled separating species into either green, amber, or red lists to indicate their increasing level of conservation concern.

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/41>

⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024). National Planning Policy Framework. London [Online]. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2023.pdf

⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7692/147570.pdf

⁶ https://www.copeland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/copeland_local_plan.pdf

⁷ Stanbury, A., Eton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win, I. (2021) The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List Assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *British Birds* **114**: 723-747.

- **Green** – Low conservation concern and fulfil none of the criteria for red and amber listed species below.
- **Amber** – Moderate conservation concern. These are species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe. Undergone a historic population decline between 1800-1995 but now recovering; a moderate decline (25-49%) in the UK breeding population in the last 25 years; a moderate decline (25-49%) in UK non-breeding population in the last 25 years; a moderate contraction (25-49%) in UK breeding range; rare breeders (fewer than 300 pairs); rare non-breeders in UK (fewer than 900 individuals); species on European Red List; and those with internationally important or localised populations.
- **Red** – High conservation concern. Species that are globally threatened according to the IUCN criteria; historical population decline between 1800 and 1995 and without recent recovery; a 50% or more decline in UK population; severe non-breeding population decline (over 50% over 25 years or longer); contraction of UK breeding range (50% or more); contraction of UK non-breeding range (50% or more).

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

- 3.10 Local BAPs are a key element for securing the requirements of the NPPF at a local level, consequently this assessment has taken due consideration of the priority habitats and species within the Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan⁸ From a review of habitat and species action plans within Cumbria, the following are of relevance to this scheme: Barn Owl, and Song Thrush.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

DESK STUDY

- 4.1 Prior to the field survey, aerial photographs and mapping tools were reviewed using online mapping resources at a minimum scale of 1:25,000; Google Maps⁹; and the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)¹⁰ to assess the landscape context of the survey area and surrounding areas.
- 4.2 The MAGIC website¹¹ was used to obtain information about:
- Statutory designated sites of international, national and local importance – relating to designations of ornithological value only.
 - Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for any relevant Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites.

⁸Armstrong, I. et al. (2001) The Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan 2001. Chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgicfindmkaj/https://www.barrowbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachment/5897.pdf

⁹ www.google.com/maps

¹⁰ www.magic.defra.gov.uk

¹¹ www.magic.defra.gov.uk

- 4.3 To support the field survey and compile baseline information of relevance to the site, ecological information was sought from third party organisations:
- Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre (CBDC); and
 - The *Birdguides*¹² website, for a database of species sightings reported in the UK.
- 4.4 Relevant data requested included records of protected or notable bird species and sites designated for ornithological interest.
- 4.5 The search area for designated sites and protected species is determined by the likely Zone of Influence¹³ and the likely significant affect. The search areas for the various levels of site designation and for protected / notable species is detailed below:
- Sites of international statutory designation such as Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Sites are searched for within a 10km radius around the application site.
 - Sites of national or regional importance with a statutory designation of Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) or National Nature Reserve (NNR) within 2km.
 - Sites of local importance with statutory designation of Local Nature Reserve (LNR), or non-statutory designation of Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or the equivalent Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within 1km.
 - Records of notable / protected species (i.e., including Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species within 1km.

FIELD SURVEY

Wintering Birds

- 4.6 To inform an evaluation of the onsite habitats for wintering bird species, survey visits were undertaken during the wintering bird season (December to March). The survey work followed a Wetland Bird Survey methodology based on the Bird Survey Guidelines (2022)¹⁴.
- 4.7 A transect route was predetermined prior to the survey in order to comprehensively cover all habitats within the site, in particular focusing on habitats of potential value to birds, whilst also considering the route of least disturbance to potential bird species. The route was walked at a slow pace, stopping to scan priority areas where appropriate. If required, the surveyor stopped or made detours from the predetermined route to observe bird behaviours. Where health and safety reasons deemed a route inaccessible, habitats were viewed from a suitable vantage point.
- 4.8 Eight surveys were undertaken in total. Initially the Site was considered close enough to potentially provide a resource for those bird species forming part of the Solway Firth SPA

¹² <https://www.birdguides.com/>

¹³ The Zone of Influence (ZOI) is defined by CIEEM as being the “area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of a proposed project and associated activities” CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater and Marine.

¹⁴ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2022). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.0.0. <https://birdsurguidelines.org> [Date accessed 1st November 2022]

winter assemblage, and therefore methodology comprised one nocturnal high tide, one diurnal high tide, and one diurnal low tide per month, due to the proximity to SPA sites. However, following the surveys carried out under this methodology in December and January very few bird species were recorded and none associated with the Solway Firth SPA assemblage were recorded on Site or within the buffer. Therefore it was determined that the Site did not provide enough suitable habitats to support a significant population of any SPA species and so the survey scope was reduced, with one high tide diurnal survey undertaken in both February and March.

- 4.9 Equipment utilised included optical RSPB Harrier binoculars 10x42, an optical RSPB Harrier 80mm ED telescope, and a HIKMICRO Falcon FQ25 Pro Handheld Thermal Monocular Telescope.
- 4.10 All surveys were undertaken when conditions were suitable (i.e., avoiding heavy rain, strong winds, and poor visibility), by an ecologist with relevant ornithological survey experience. E. Padmore has over 5 years of survey experience and a Level 6 Ofsted approved certification in Field Ornithology. T. Ord has over 2 years of survey experience and is currently ongoing training for a Level 6 Ofsted approved certification in Field Ornithology. Full details are provided within Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Wintering Bird Survey Dates and Weather Conditions

Survey	Date and survey type	Start / End Time	Low / High Tide	Sunset / Sunrise	Personnel	Temperature (°C)	Rain (0-5)	Wind (0-5)	Cloud %	Visibility
1	11/12/2024 Diurnal low tide	11:58 / 14:58	Low 13:58	08:26	T. Ord Assistant Ecologist	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	30 / 80	Very good
2	11/12/2024 Nocturnal high tide	18:48 / 20:51	High 19:48	15:48	T. Ord	1 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	100 / 100	Very good
3	12/12/2024 Diurnal high tide	07:28 / 09:33	High 08:28	08:28	T. Ord	1 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	70 / 50	Very good
4	27/01/2025 Diurnal low tide	14:47 / 17:20	Low 16:22	08:11 / 16:44	T. Ord	6 / 5	1 / 2	3 / 3	100 / 100	Good
5	27/01/2025 Nocturnal high tide	21:17 / 23:18	High 22:18	16:43	T. Ord	5 / 4	2 / 1	2 / 1	100 / 60	Good
6	28/01/2025 Diurnal high tide	09:30 / 11:33	High 10:32	08:09	T. Ord	5 / 7	0 / 0	2 / 1	50 / 70	Very good
7	25/02/2025 Diurnal high tide	08:27 / 10:27	High 09:27	07:12	T. Ord	6 / 7	0 / 0	0 / 1	40 / 20	Very good
8	18/03/2025 Diurnal high tide	11:43 / 14:43	High 13:43	06:10	E. Padmore Ecologist	8 / 11	0 / 0	0 / 0	5 / 5	Very good

- 4.11 The locations and species of birds seen and heard either within the site or within a 200m buffer of the site were mapped using standard BTO letter codes¹⁵ and activity symbols.

Survey Limitations

- 4.12 On the survey undertaken at low tide on 27/01/2025, high winds were recorded across the entire survey period. While these conditions are sub-optimal, they are deemed representative of the Site and time of year. Furthermore, the species assemblage observed was also similar to that of the other diurnal surveys, in which conditions were suitable throughout the entire survey period. Consequently, this is not considered to be a significant constraint to the overall assessment.

ASSESSMENT

Importance

- 4.13 The evaluation of the importance of the breeding bird community has been based on Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance¹⁶. This guidance recommends that valuation is made with reference to a geographical framework given the different communities of birds observed within the Survey Area, based on the data collected during survey. The importance of an ornithological feature is considered in the following geographical context:
- **International (European)** – A species which is included within the citation of a SPA and regularly occurs in either internationally or nationally important numbers. A species that is present in numbers greater than 1% of the international population.
 - **National (United Kingdom)** – A species which is included within the citation of a SSSI and regularly occurs in either nationally or regionally important numbers. A nationally important assemblage of breeding or over-wintering species. A species that is present in numbers greater than 1% of the national population. Rare breeding species (<300 pairs in the UK).
 - **Regional (Northwest England)** – Species listed as being of principal importance under the NERC Act (2006), which are not included within the above and regularly occur in regionally important numbers. Species present in numbers greater than 1% of the regional population. Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within the region. Species listed on the BoCC Red List and regularly occur in regionally important numbers.
 - **County (Cumbria)** – Species listed as being of principal importance under the NERC Act (2006), or species listed on the LBAP (at a county level), which are not included within the above and regularly occur in county important numbers. Species present in numbers greater than 1% of the county population. Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within the county.
 - **Local (Egremont)** – All other species listed on the BoCC Red and Amber Lists, species of principal importance under the NERC Act (2006), or species listed on the LBAP (at a

¹⁵ https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u16/downloads/forms_instructions/bto_bird_species_codes.pdf

¹⁶ CIEEM (2019) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1

local level), which are not covered by the above and regularly occurring in locally sustainable populations. Sustainable populations of species which are rare or scarce within the locality.

Abundance

- 4.14 The most recent Cumbria Bird List (from Cumbria Bird Club)¹⁷ was consulted to provide information as to how these species are currently represented within the county.

Table 2 Species Distribution Status and Definition

Species Status	Definition
Vagrant	Fewer than 2
Rare	3 – 10, or at least 5 years without a record
Scarce	Averaging up to 5 per year
Uncommon	Averaging 6 – 50 per year
Fairly common	Averaging 50 – 500 per year
Common	Averaging 500 – 5000 per year
Abundant	Averaging over 5000 per year

5.0 RESULTS (BASELINE)

DESK STUDY

- 5.1 A summary of relevant information provided by third party consultees in relation to ornithological value is provided below. The original data has not been included in this report.

Statutory Designated Sites

- 5.2 Four internationally designated sites occur within 10km of the Site.
- 5.3 River Ehen SAC is located 800m southeast of the Site boundary. The site is designated for its habitats and associated riparian species, none of which are birds. Although the site is not designated for its bird assemblage, the natural riparian habitats present of wet woodland, sedge swamp, alder floodplain woodland, river shingles, and oxbow lakes will provide suitable habitat for a range of wetland bird species.
- 5.4 Solway Firth RAMSAR / SPA / SAC / SSSI is located 6km northwest of the Site boundary. Solway Firth is one of the largest intertidal areas in Europe, and the third largest in the UK. The site is designated for its non-breeding population of red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*, whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*, barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis*, golden plover

¹⁷ Cumbria Bird Club (2023). Cumbria Bird List. Available from: <https://cumbriabirdclub.org.uk/reporting/cumbria-bird-list/>

Pluvialis apricaria, and bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*; for supporting migratory populations of pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, pintail *Anas acuta*, Scaup *Aythya marila*, oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, knot *Calidris canutus*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, and redshank *Tringa totanus*; and for supporting passage populations of ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. The site is further qualified for supporting in excess of 20,000 wildfowl and waders, such as nationally important numbers of shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, teal *Anas crecca*, shoveler *Spatula clypeata*, goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, sanderling *Calidris alba*, dunlin *Calidris alpina*, turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, common scoter *Melanitta nigra*, goosander *Mergus merganser*, lapwing, cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, common gull *Larus canus* and herring gull *Larus argentatus*.

- 5.5 Lake District High Fells SAC is located 7.7km east of the Site boundary. The area is characterized by a variety of habitats, including montane heaths, grasslands, and blanket bogs. The high-altitude environments support specialized flora such as dwarf willow *Salix herbacea* and alpine catchfly *Silene suecica*, while the lower slopes are home to species-rich woodlands dominated by sessile oak *Quercus petraea*. While the site is not designated for birds, the habitats have the potential to support species such as Peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Merlin *Falco columbarius*, and Raven *Corvus corax*.
- 5.6 River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake SAC is located 8.6km northwest of the Site boundary. This site includes the River Derwent and Bassenthwaite Lake, both characterized by oligotrophic to mesotrophic waters. The aquatic habitats support extensive, species-rich beds of macrophytes. The site is not designated for any bird species but habitats will support.
- 5.7 Two sites of national importance with a statutory designation were located within 2km of the Site boundary.
- 5.8 River Ehen (Ennerdale Water to Keekle Confluence) SSSI is situated 800m southeast of the Site boundary. This section of the River Ehen is recognized for its high-quality freshwater habitats, supporting the nationally significant population of freshwater pearl mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera* and important spawning grounds for Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*. The site is not designated for any bird species but habitats will support.
- 5.9 Clints Quarry SSSI is situated 1.5km south of the Site boundary. Clints Quarry is a disused limestone quarry that has developed a diverse range of habitats, including calcareous grassland, scrub, and wetland areas. The site supports a rich assemblage of plant species, including several orchids (Orchidaceae) and other calcicole flora. The site is not designated for any bird species but habitats will support.
- 5.10 Any impacts associated with these sites are considered further within a separate Ecological Impact Assessment Report (Futures Ecology Ltd., May 2025, Report Ref: FE496_EclA01).

Non-Statutory Designated Sites

- 5.11 One non-statutory designated site occurs within 1km of the BESS boundary.
- 5.12 Longlands Lake LWS is noted as a valuable wetland. The lake and adjoining areas support a variety of habitats including broadleaved woodland, neutral grassland and marginal

aquatic vegetation. It is also noted for breeding bird species: Goosander *Mergus merganser*, coot *Fulica atra*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, and tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*.

- 5.13 Any impacts associated with these sites are considered further within a separate Ecological Impact Assessment Report (Futures Ecology Ltd., FE496, Report Ref: FE496_EcIA01).

Protected / Notable Bird Species Records

- 5.14 Records of protected and notable species provided by desk study consultees are provided in Table 3 below. The species records have been filtered to comprise relevant protected and / or notable bird species within 1km of the survey area from the last 20 years.

Table 3 – Summary of Relevant Protected Species Records

Species	Latin	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from site centroid (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	WCA (Sch1_part1), CBAP)	2	[within 1km]	1000m
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	6	33m north	1000m
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringill</i>	WCA (Sch1_part1)	1	[within 1km]	1000m
Common Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI), CBAP	10	33m north	1000m
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	1	33m north	1000m
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	BoCC (Amber)	3	33m north	1000m
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	15	33m north	1000m
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI), CBAP	15	33m north	1000m
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	4	33m north	1000m
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	BoCC (Red), WCA (Sch1_part1)	3	[within 1km]	1000m
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	33m north	1000m
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	BoCC (Red)	7	[within 1km]	1000m
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	BoCC (Red)	1	33m north	1000m
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	1	33m north	1000m
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	BoCC (Amber)	8	33m north	1000m

Species	Latin	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from site centroid (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	33m north	1000m
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	10	33m north	1000m
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	BoCC (Red)	4	33m north	1000m
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	9	33m north	1000m
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	11	33m north	1000m
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	BoCC (Amber), WCA (Sch1_part1)	4	33m north	1000m
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	1	33m north	1000m
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	1	33m north	1000m
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	1	33m north	1000m
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	BoCC (Amber)	13	33m north	1000m
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	BoCC (Red)	4	33m north	1000m
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	10	33m north	1000m
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	33m north	1000m
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	WCA (Sch1_part1)	4	[within 1km]	1000m
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	33m north	1000m
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	BoCC (Red)	12	33m north	1000m
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	33m north	1000m
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	BoCC (Amber), WCA (Sch1_part1)	3	498m south	100m
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI), CBAP	8	33m north	1000m
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	16	33m north	1000m
Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	3	335m southeast	100m
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	4	33m north	1000m
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	33m north	1000m

Species	Latin	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from site centroid (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	1	33m north	1000m
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	BoCC (Amber)	3	33m north	1000m
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI), CBAP	11	33m north	1000m
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	2	33m north	1000m
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	2	33m north	1000m
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	7	33m north	1000m
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	BoCC (Amber)	3	33m north	1000m
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	BoCC (Red)	3	33m north	1000m
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	498m south	100m
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1	33m north	1000m
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	1	33m north	1000m
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	BoCC (Red)	2	280m southeast	100m
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	BoCC (Amber)	3	33m north	1000m
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	BoCC (Amber), WCA (Sch1_part1)	3	33m north	1000m
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	9	33m north	1000m
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	1	33m north	1000m
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	13	33m north	1000m
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	BoCC (Amber)	14	33m north	1000m
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), CBAP	3	33m north	1000m

Status Key: Regs – The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (*as amended*). WCA – The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended*). Sch 1 – Schedule 1. Sch 2 – Schedule 2. Sch5 – Schedule 5. Sch8 – Schedule 8. Sch9 – Schedule 9. NERC – England Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41. SPI – Species of Principal Importance. BoCC – Birds of Conservation Concern. CLBAP – Cumbria Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Records from *Birdguides*:

- 5.15 A search of the online *Birdguides* database found four bird sites within 2km of the Site: Bigrigg, Cleator Moor, Longlands Lake, and Moor Row. Records for these sites were checked from the last 20 years.
- 5.16 One species record was returned from the Bigrigg site: Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*.
- 5.17 One species record was returned from the Cleator Moor site: Scaup *Aythya marila*.
- 5.18 Eight species records were returned from the Longlands Lake site: Blyth's reed warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, Gannet *Morus Bassanus*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis*, Sand martin *Riparia riparia*, Scaup *Aythya marila*, Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus*, and Barn swallow *Hirundo rustica*.
- 5.19 One species record was returned from the Moor Row site: Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

FIELD SURVEYS**Wintering Birds 2024/25**

- 5.20 A total of 38 species were recorded within the survey area on at least one of the eight survey visits. Of the 38 species, 22 appear on one or more of the following, and are thus species of ecological value:
- Annex I of The EC Birds Directive.
 - Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
 - Species of Principal Importance, Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.
 - Cumbria's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (CLBAP) Species.
 - BoCC Red or Amber.
- 5.21 Only five of these species of ecological value were recorded within the BESS boundary and a further 15 species were recorded in the offsite 200m buffer. The locations of the habitats that species were recorded in association with is presented on Figure 1. Six additional species were only ever observed flying over at a height where they were not utilising the onsite or offsite habitats and are therefore not presented on the plan.
- 5.22 Table 4 below summarises the 22 birds of ecological value that were observed at least once during the wintering bird surveys, determined by species importance and county abundance. Appendix A describes the total species observations throughout the survey period.

Species Utilisation of Habitats

- 5.23 The species of ecological value utilising habitats within the survey area for foraging and roosting were:

Onsite Poor Semi-Improved Grassland:

- Redwing

- Mistle thrush

Onsite Broadleaved Trees:

- Kestrel
- Song thrush
- Woodpigeon

Offsite Habitats:

- Bullfinch
- Dunnock
- Fieldfare
- Greenfinch
- Kestrel
- Meadow pipit
- Redwing
- Rook
- Song thrush
- Stock dove
- Tawny owl
- Tree sparrow
- Woodpigeon
- Wren
- Yellowhammer

Species Recorded Flying Over:

- Black-headed gull
- Common gull
- Greylag goose
- Herring gull
- Lapwing
- Pink-footed goose

Table 4 - Wintering Bird Population 2024/25

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Peak observations / Number of surveys observed on (out of a total 8)	County abundance ¹⁸	National population (winter) ^{19*}	Percentage of County abundance (Average^ - Peak observations)	Species Value based on utilization of survey area habitats ⁺
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	10 / 3	Abundant	2.2 million	0.045 / 0.2	N/A: Flyover species
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI)	1 / 1	Common	265,000 territories	0.025 / 0.2	Local (offsite)
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	BoCC (Red)	2 / 3	Abundant	710,000	0.01 / 0.04	N/A: Flyover species
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	BoCC (Amber)	3 / 1	Abundant	2.5 million territories	0.0075 / 0.06	Local (offsite)
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	BoCC (Red), WCA (Sch1_part1)	3 / 1	Abundant	720,000	0.0075 / 0.06	Local (offsite)
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	BoCC (Red)	3 / 3	Abundant	785,000 pairs	0.015 / 0.06	Local (offsite)
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	BoCC (Amber)	7 / 1	Common	230,000	0.175 / 1.4	N/A: Flyover species
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	5 / 5	Abundant	740,000	0.035 / 0.1	N/A: Flyover species
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1 / 4	Common	31,000 pairs	0.1 / 0.2	Local
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	BoCC (Red) NERC (SPI)	8 / 1	Abundant	635,000	0.02 / 0.16	N/A: Flyover species
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	BoCC (Amber)	8 / 1	Abundant	2.5 million	0.02 / 0.16	Local (offsite)
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	BoCC (Red)	1 / 1	Abundant	165,000 territories	0.0025 / 0.02	Local

¹⁸ <https://cumbriabirdclub.org.uk/reporting/cumbria-bird-list/>¹⁹ BTO (2022). The British List. BTO. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/british-list>

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Peak observations / Number of surveys observed on (out of a total 8)	County abundance ¹⁸	National population (winter) ^{19*}	Percentage of County abundance (Average [^] - Peak observations)	Species Value based on utilization of survey area habitats ⁺
Pink-footed goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	80+ / 1	Abundant	510,000	0.2 / 1.6	N/A: Flyover species
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	BoCC (Amber), WCA (Sch1_part1)	12 / 5	Abundant	690,000	0.065 / 0.24	Local
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	7 / 5	Abundant	980,000 pairs	0.0625 / 0.16	Local (offsite)
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI)	4 / 4	Abundant	1.3 million territories	0.02 / 0.08	Local
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1 / 1	Common	320,000 territories	0.025 / 0.2	Local (offsite)
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	BoCC (Amber)	1 / 2	Common	50,000 pairs	0.05 / 0.2	Local (offsite)
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	2 / 1	Common	245,000 territories	0.05 / 0.4	Local (offsite)
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	BoCC (Amber)	64 (offsite) / 7	Abundant	5.2 million pairs	0.245 / 1.28	Local
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	BoCC (Amber)	3 / 4	Abundant	11 million territories	0.02 / 0.06	Local (offsite)
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	1 / 1	Common	700,000 territories	0.025 / 0.2	Local (offsite)

*Unless the species is a resident species which does not experience a change in population throughout the seasons, in which case breeding numbers are provided.

[^]Average of diurnal species was calculated using the diurnal surveys only, and due to only one nocturnal survey being carried out no average was calculated for the species only recorded on the nocturnal occasion.

⁺Species value and justification is discussed in Section 6.0 Discussion and Evaluation.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

WINTERING BIRD ASSEMBLAGE VALUE

- 6.1 The survey area supported a range of wintering bird species typical of the size of the survey area, habitats present and regional location. The surveys recorded a total of 38 species, with 22 being of ecological value determined by species importance and county abundance.
- 6.2 Only redwing, mistle thrush, kestrel, song thrush, and woodpigeon were found to utilise the onsite habitats. Redwing and mistle thrush were observed foraging within the onsite poor semi-improved grassland, whilst kestrel, song thrush, and woodpigeon were observed within boundary broadleaved trees.
- 6.3 A total of fifteen species were recorded within the offsite buffer habitats, with eleven of these only ever recorded offsite, those being: bullfinch, dunnock, fieldfare, greenfinch, meadow pipit, rook, stock dove, tawny dove, tree sparrow, wren, and yellowhammer. For these species, the habitats within the buffer and wider local area provided more suitable habitats rather than those onsite. Offsite habitats in which these species were observed within included larger pasture fields, dense/continuous scrub, hedgerows, and broadleaved trees.
- 6.4 Of the total 38 species identified, all were identified as abundant (>5000 per year), common (500 – 5000 individuals per year), or fairly common (50 – 500 individuals per year) in Cumbria²⁰.
- 6.5 Of the 22 notable species, three occurred in numbers that were greater than 1% of the reported Cumbria abundance: greylag goose, pink-footed goose, and woodpigeon. Greylag geese and pink-footed geese were only ever recorded flying over the Site and not utilising survey area habitats. Woodpigeon occurred in numbers greater than 1% of the reported Cumbria abundance based upon a peak count of 64 individuals foraging offsite on one occasion, and so this is not considered a regular assemblage using the onsite habitats. Furthermore, using the average number observed across the whole survey period they did not occur in numbers >1% on or offsite.
- 6.6 The two species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended): Redwing and fieldfare (peak numbers recorded: 12 and 3 respectively), are abundant during the winter months throughout the county and regularly occur in large flocks.
- 6.7 Species for which the Solway Firth SPA is designated for that were recorded during the surveys included: Black-head gull, common gull, herring gull, lapwing, and pink-footed goose. However, all of these species were only recorded on one or limited occasions as flying over the survey area at a height where they were not utilising survey area habitats, and therefore the Site is not considered functionally linked to the SPA.
- 6.8 The Site is considered to support a wintering bird assemblage of no more than **Local** value.

²⁰ <https://cumbriabirdclub.org.uk/reporting/cumbria-bird-list/>

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE ASSESSMENT

- 6.9 The Site did not meet the criteria for Cumbria Local Wildlife Site Selection²¹, specifically in relation to Guidelines Bi8, Bi9, Bi10, and Bi11 regarding winter bird populations. Furthermore, the site does not meet the relevant criteria in relation to Guideline Bi6 regarding combined breeding, wintering and passage species.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Construction / Operational Phase

- 6.10 The proposals will result in the permanent loss of the southernmost parcel of poor semi-improved grassland. Boundary tree habitats will be retained. The remaining field compartment of poor-semi improved grassland will be lost but enhanced as part of biodiversity net gain enhancements.
- 6.11 Redwing and mistle thrush were observed foraging within the poor semi-improved grassland habitats, and so the loss of this could result in their permanent displacement from the Site. Construction works could also temporarily displace these species from the Site. However, these species were also observed within offsite habitats and so given the availability of nearby suitable habitats within the wider local context these species are not expected to be significantly impacted by temporary construction works and a small permanent loss of habitat onsite.
- 6.12 Kestrel, song thrush, and woodpigeon are likely to continue to utilise the Site's retained habitats, although construction works could temporarily displace these species from the Site.
- 6.13 Given that there is further habitat of a similar nature nearby it is considered that the temporary displacement of birds from retained habitats and the permanent loss of habitats under the footprint of the BESS, in the absence of mitigation, would only affect a small number of wintering bird species and only low numbers of individuals. This is considered to have a **not-significant adverse** effect at a **Local** level.
- 6.14 During the construction phase, potential impacts on retained habitat features include direct accidental damage and indirect impacts from noise, dust and/or pollution. This could have a temporary, **not-significant adverse** effect at a **Local** level.
- 6.15 Light and noise as a result of the construction phase could disturb small numbers of birds roosting and/or foraging in adjacent, offsite habitats. In the absence of mitigation this could have a **not-significant adverse** effect at a **Local** level.
- 6.16 Inappropriate lighting within the BESS Compound during its operational phase has the potential to disturb roosting and / or foraging species. This could result in a **not-significant adverse** effect at a **Local** level.

²¹ https://www.cbdc.org.uk/CWS/Files/CWS_guidelines_2008.pdf

Mitigation

- 6.17 The displacement of bird species due to disturbance and habitat loss cannot be fully mitigated.
- 6.18 Retained habitats will be protected from construction phase impacts through the implementation of a CEMP. This will outline the industry best practice guidelines to prevent direct damage and reduce dust, noise and pollution during the construction phase.
- 6.19 A sensitive lighting design in accordance with BCT Guidance **Error! Bookmark not defined.** will be implemented both during the construction and operational phase, with particular avoidance of light spill upon retained trees, ditches, and other adjacent habitats.

Compensation / Enhancement

- 6.20 The scheme will provide new areas of tree planting, native scrub and species-rich wildflower grassland. These new habitats once established will provide a mosaic of habitats and increase the foraging and roosting opportunities for the local wintering bird population. Long term management of the habitats will include rotational cutting of habitats to increase structural diversity. Any works to fruit bearing trees will be delayed until February to provide an over wintering food source. This will be outlined within a Biodiversity and Ecological Management Plan (BEMP).
- 6.21 Overall, following the suggested compensation / enhancements, the proposed development could have a **not-significant positive** effect on a **Local** level on the wintering bird assemblage.

7.0 RESIDUAL EFFECTS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The survey area supported a range of wintering bird species typical of the size of the survey area, habitats present and regional location, and overall the assemblage recorded within the redline was very limited, with only five species of conservation concern being recorded onsite or within boundary habitats.
- 7.2 Boundary tree habitats will be retained, and the northernmost field compartment will be enhanced as part of biodiversity enhancements.
- 7.3 As a worst-case scenario, the proposed development is considered to result in the temporary displacement of a wintering bird assemblage of Local value. New landscaping proposals in the long-term will improve the foraging resource for local wintering birds and attract additional species. As such it is considered that the impacts to the wintering assemblage are temporary and following the implementation of the landscaping proposals will result in **significant positive effect** in the **long-term**.

APPENDIX A: FULL WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS 2024/25

Species	Latin	Peak observations on each survey occasion								Designations				County abundance ²²	Survey/observation notes
		Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Survey 7	Survey 8	BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / CLBAP		
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	14	3	12	4	-	4	5	9	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Foraging on and offsite, and within boundary habitats
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	-	-	2	6	-	10	-	-	Amber	-	-	-	Abundant	Flying over Site only
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes cyanistes</i>	-	-	2	-	-	6	5	4	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Within boundary and offsite habitats
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Amber	-	-	SPI	Common	Male in offsite habitats on one occasion
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Green	-	-	-	Common	Circling offsite habitats, outside of the 200m buffer
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	9	-	3	3	-	1	3	2	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Foraging on and offsite, and within boundary habitats

²² <https://cumbriabirdclub.org.uk/reporting/cumbria-bird-list/>

Species	Latin	Peak observations on each survey occasion								Designations				County abundance ²²	Survey/observation notes
		Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Survey 7	Survey 8	BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / CLBAP		
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	-	-	-	1	-	7	9	2	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Within boundary and offsite habitats
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Singing offsite
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Singing offsite
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	Red	-	-	-	Abundant	Flying over Site only
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	Amber	-	-	SPI	Abundant	Within offsite habitats
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	Red	-	Yes	-	Abundant	Within offsite tree on one occasion
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	8	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Within boundary and offsite habitats
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	3	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Within boundary and offsite habitats
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	Red	-	-	-	Abundant	Singing offsite
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinera</i>	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	Green	-	-	-	Fairly common	Pair observed offsite

Species	Latin	Peak observations on each survey occasion								Designations				County abundance ²²	Survey/observation notes
		Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Survey 7	Survey 8	BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / CLBAP		
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	Amber	-	-	-	Common	Flying over Site only
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	5	-	2	4	-	1	2	-	Red	-	-	SPI	Abundant	Flying over Site only
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	1	-	3	36	-	6	2	6	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Flying over or within offsite habitats
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	Amber	-	-	-	Common	Hunting within offsite habitats, and perched in boundary tree on one occasion
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	Red	-	-	SPI	Abundant	Flying over Site only, came from northwest and circled back that way to leave
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Within offsite habitats on one survey occasion
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	2	-	4	-	-	2	1	5	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Foraging on and offsite, and within boundary habitats

Species	Latin	Peak observations on each survey occasion								Designations				County abundance ²²	Survey/observation notes
		Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Survey 7	Survey 8	BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / CLBAP		
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	Amber	-	-	-	Abundant	Flock within offsite field on one survey occasion
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Red	-	-	-	Abundant	Foraging in offsite field
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	Not assessed	-	-	-	Abundant	On and offsite
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Within offsite habitats
Pink-footed goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	80+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Amber	-	-	-	Abundant	Flying over Site only
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	2	-	12	-	3	-	1	8	Amber	-	Yes	-	Abundant	Foraging on and offsite, moving through local linear habitats
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	9	1	7	1	-	8	3	8	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	On and offsite
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	1	-	-	7	-	5	8	4	Amber	-	-	-	Abundant	Flying over Site and foraging offsite only

Species	Latin	Peak observations on each survey occasion								Designations				County abundance ²²	Survey/observation notes
		Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Survey 7	Survey 8	BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / CLBAP		
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	1	2	-	-	-	4	-	Amber	-	-	SPI / CLBAP	Abundant	Within boundary habitats and foraging offsite
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Amber	-	-	-	Common	In offsite tree
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	Amber	-	-	-	Common	Heard offsite
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	Red	-	-	SPI	Common	Moving through offsite hedgerow on one occasion
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	64	-	5	8	5	4	6	6	Amber	-	-	-	Abundant	On and offsite, peak 64 seen foraging in offsite field
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	3	Amber	-	-	-	Abundant	Heard on and off Site
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Red	-	-	SPI	Common	Heard offsite

+ Where species were observed in flocks, or obscured by habitat but could be heard, a minimum count of the species is recorded.



FUTURES ECOLOGY

Carrwood Park, Swillington Common Farm, Selby Road, Leeds, LS15 4LG

Telephone: 01133 372185

Unit 9, The Tangent Business Hub, Weighbridge Road, Shirebrook, Mansfield, Derbyshire, NG20 8RX

Telephone: 01623 749709

Key

- Site Boundary
- 200 buffer

Habitats

- Hardstanding
- SI Poor semi-improved grassland

- Broadleaved trees
- Dry ditch
- Fence
- Scrub - scattered

Wintering Bird Survey Results 2024/25

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Bullfinch | Rook |
| Dunnock | Song thrush |
| Fieldfare | Stock dove |
| Greenfinch | Tawny owl |
| Kestrel | Tree sparrow |
| Meadow pipit | Woodpigeon |
| Mistle thrush | Wren |
| Redwing | Yellowhammer |



Client: JT Energy Storage (Windel Energy)

Project: BESS Egremont, Cumbria

Title: Figure 1 - Winter Bird Survey Results 2024/25

Plan Reference: FE496_01

Project Reference: FE496

Report Reference: FE496/WBR01

Author: EP

Date: 14/5/2025

Scale: 1:1,750 @A3

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