



South Gillingham Consortium

South Gillingham, Dorset

Breeding Birds Report

November 2017

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Executive Summary

Contents	Summary
Site Location and Proposals	The site is located to the south of the town of Gillingham in Dorset, centred on OS grid reference ST819488. It covers an area of approximately 91.8 ha and is divided into three areas. Park Farm, the eastern area is located to the east of Shaftesbury Road. West of Shaftesbury Road lies Ham Farm, the central area. West of Ham Farm lies Newhouse Farm, the western area.
Previous Reports / Surveys	An extended Phase 1 habitat survey carried out by WYG in March 2015 identified suitable habitat on site for breeding birds.
This Survey(s)	Breeding Bird Survey – April-June 2015.
Results	<p>A total of 39 species were recorded during the breeding bird surveys. Although not recorded during the breeding bird surveys, barn owls which are legally protected under the WCA Schedule 1 were recorded during bat activity surveys. No other Schedule 1 species were recorded. Although barn owls were seen during nocturnal bat surveys.</p> <p>Seven Red List Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) were recorded, all of which may be breeding on site, these were: cuckoo, house sparrow, linnet, skylark, spotted flycatcher, starling and song thrush.</p> <p>Eleven Amber List BoCC were recorded, of which five were considered to be breeding on site: bullfinch, dunnoek, mallard, stock dove, and whitethroat.</p> <p>Of these WCA Schedule 1 BoCC red and amber list species, Twenty two Green List Species were recorded during the surveys.</p> <p>Of these WCA schedule 1, BoCC red and amber list species; nine are NERC S.41 priority species.</p> <p>Two species recorded have not been assessed against the BoCC criteria as they are both introduced species: pheasant and red-legged partridge.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is recommended that all vegetation clearance works are undertaken outside of the bird breeding season, which is considered to be between March and September inclusive in any given year. If this is not possible then it is recommended that an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) is employed to check all vegetation for nesting birds immediately prior to its removal and if any nesting birds are found then a suitable exclusion zone which is species specific is set up around the nest site until all the young have fledged and cease to return to the nest.</p> <p>The network of hedgerows should be retained on site is possible as these provide suitable habitat for many of the species recorded on site.</p>



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

WYG was commissioned by the South Gillingham Consortium in March 2015 to undertake breeding bird surveys of a proposed development at a site in South Gillingham (Hereafter known as 'the site'). This followed an extended Phase 1 habitat survey in March 2015 which identified suitable habitat on site for breeding birds.

1.2 Site Location

The site is located to the south of the town of Gillingham in Dorset, centred on OS grid reference ST819488. It covers an area of approximately 91.8 ha and is divided into three areas. Park Farm, the eastern area is located to the east of Shaftesbury Road. West of Shaftesbury Road lies Ham Farm, the central area. West of Ham Farm lies Newhouse Farm, the western area. To the north of Ham Farm lies the residential area of Ham Common. West of Ham Common runs the River Lodden, with the Lodden Lakes beyond, which forms the northern boundary of Newhouse Farm. To the south and west of the site lie agricultural areas including both pasture and arable fields, with hedgerow networks. The northern and eastern boundary of Park Farm comprises Fern Brook, with further agricultural areas beyond.

Park Farm comprises a matrix of habitats including improved grassland pasture grazed by horses, sheep and cattle, species-poor hedgerows with mature trees, broadleaved plantation woodland, neutral semi-improved grassland, bare ground and buildings. Ham Farm comprises a matrix of improved grassland pasture grazed by cattle, neutral semi-improved grassland, broadleaved plantation woodland, species-poor and species-rich hedgerows with mature trees and bare ground. Newhouse Farm comprises a matrix of improved grassland pasture grazed by cattle, species-poor hedgerows with mature trees and bare ground. There are six ponds located on site, a running ditch within Newhouse Farm and two watercourses flowing along the northern boundary of Newhouse Farm and the north and east boundaries of Park Farm.

1.3 Development Proposals

The site has been identified within Policy 17 of the emerging North Dorset Local Plan 2011-2026. Development proposals are for up to 1800 residential dwellings with associated schools, new access roads open space and sustainable urban drainage. The masterplan framework for the site includes a significant buffer of approximately 100m from the River Lodden and Fern Brook as well as numerous other features of ecological interest.

1.4 Survey & Reporting Objectives

The scope of work comprised:

- A desk study to obtain records of protected/notable bird species within the site and its environs;



- A survey and assessment of the breeding bird assemblage onsite and the potential ornithological constraints to and impacts from the proposed development with recommendations for further surveys as required; and
- Provide preliminary advice on mitigation strategies against any adverse affects on the breeding bird population which may arise as a result of the proposed development.



2.0 Planning Policy & Legislation

2.1 National Planning Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework was adopted in March 2012. Section 11 of the NPPF, Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment replaces Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9): Biodiversity and Geological Conservation. However, government Circular 06/2005, Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System, which relates to PPS9 remains valid and is referenced within Paragraph 113 of the NPPF.

Circular 06/2005 states that the presence of protected species is a material consideration in the planning process. The NPPF also states that 'planning policies should promote the protection of priority species populations linked to national and local targets'.

2.2 Local Planning Policy

Policy 1.37 of the North Dorset District-Wide Local Plan 2011 includes a requirement to **protect and** enhance the continuity and integrity of landscape features which are of major importance for wildlife. Development will be expected to fully consider nature conservation. Where development is permitted, the following should be taken into account:

- (i) Important woodland, wetlands, trees, hedgerows, watercourses, ponds, geological features and other major natural features and habitats are retained;
- (ii) Compensatory provision is made for replacement habitats/features of quality where the loss of existing habitats and/or features is unavoidable;
- (iii) Habitat features, attractive to wildlife including those which meet the needs of particular species, are, where appropriate, incorporated in the development;
- (iv) Full provision is made for the future management of retained and newly created wildlife features.

Under 1.137 of Policy 1.37 it states; 1.137 when considering relevant development proposals the Council will seek and act on the advice of wildlife conservation bodies, in order to safeguard the habitats of protected species or determine appropriate mitigatory works such as the provision of alternative nesting and roosting boxes.

2.3 Legislation

All wild birds in the UK are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 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 WCA 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).

In addition, Annex 1 of the EU 'Birds' Directive (1979) lists 194 species that are subject to special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction. Member States are required to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the Annex 1 and all



migratory species. SPAs are scientifically identified areas critical to the survival of the targeted species. The SPAs form part of the Natura 2000 EU network of protected nature sites. The designation of an area as an SPA gives it a high level of protection from potentially damaging developments (European Commission (EC), 2004).

Forty-nine bird species are 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. The Dorset Biodiversity Partnership lists locally important habitats of principal importance for conserving biodiversity in Dorset.

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 3 (Eaton *et al.*, 2009). The basis of species ongoing population trends are assigned to one of three lists of Conservation Concern. These are the specific Red, Amber and Green lists for England. 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. Species which do not breed in the UK or do not winter in significant numbers are not listed on any of the Red, Amber or Green Lists, neither are introduced species.

Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Red List criteria for breeding birds are those which have experienced a severe decline of more than 50% of population and / or range over the last 25 years, as measured by the number of 10 km squares occupied by breeding birds of the species concerned. Species listed as globally threatened by Birdlife International and those with a historical decline in the UK between 1800 and 1995 (without evidence of recovery) are also included.

BoCC Amber List criteria for breeding birds are those which have experienced a moderate decline of between 25% and 49% of population and / or range over the last 25 years. Species of European conservation concern and those with a historical decline but which are currently recovering are also included.

Species which have stable populations or which are increasing are listed on the BoCC Green List. These species are not currently considered to be threatened.



3.0 Methodology

3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Local Records Centre

Information was obtained from the Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC) regarding the presence of notable species records within 2 km of the proposed development site.

3.1.2 Online Resources

A search for designations was made of Natural England's interactive, web-based MAGIC (Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside) database.

3.2 Field Surveys

3.2.1 Breeding Bird Survey Methodology

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 (song birds), 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. Vernacular common names were used for all bird species throughout this report.

For recording passerines, specific symbols were used for singing, calling and movements of the same bird between different areas, flying, carrying food, nest building, aggressive encounters and other notable behaviour (Gilbert *et al.*, 2002). The expected outcome of this technique is that mapped registrations fall into clusters, approximately coinciding with territories. Where a species has closely packed territories (e.g. reed warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*), the mapping of simultaneously singing birds becomes essential. Territory boundaries are taken to be between such birds. Additional data was gathered regarding breeding birds during the bat surveys within the breeding season.

A field survey was also carried out for buildings or trees suitable for nesting barn owl within 150m of the site. Evidence searched for included pellets, droppings, feathers, nesting material and egg shells. The age of pellets and nesting material can be estimated to give an indication of the timing and frequency of barn owl roosting or nesting at a site. Any sites where evidence of barn owl was recorded would be re-surveyed via a closer inspection by a barn owl licenced ecologist during the breeding season to confirm if birds were nesting or roosting.

4.0 Baseline Conditions

4.1 Desk Based Study

DERC return fifty six records for notable bird species within 2 km of the site. Five species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA are recorded including barn owl (*Tyto alba*), green sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*), kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) and redwing (*Turdus iliacus*). Seven red listed species have also been recorded from within the search area, species include lapwing (*Vannellus vanellus*), cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*). Sixteen amber listed species records were returned with species listed including little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) Bewick's swan (*Cygnus columianus*), bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), house martin (*Delichon urbica*) and whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*).

4.2 Weather Conditions

The dates, times and weather conditions of the surveys are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Survey Weather Conditions

Survey date	Start time	End time	Temperature °C	Cloud (Oktas)	Wind speed	Rain
16.04.15	06.00	10.05	8	5/8	1	Nil
08.05.15	05.30	09:50	10	8/8	1-2	Nil
25.05.2015	05:05	09.45	10	6/8	1	Nil
23.06.2015	05:00	09.36	10	6/8	0	Nil

4.3 Breeding Bird Survey Results

A total of 42 species were recorded during the breeding bird surveys, of these a total of 30 were considered to be breeding within the site. Plans showing bird registrations are included as Figures 1 – 3.

The plan shows all bird registrations except where an individual or group of the same species was noted in the same location on multiple visits, in which case the repeat registrations have not been shown. Notes on breeding behaviour (e.g. singing) have not been included in Appendix C but have been considered when determining the breeding status of each species.

Each species has been assigned a breeding status based on breeding behaviour noted during the surveys:

Confirmed breeding, includes:

- Nest with young or eggs;



- Adult carrying faecal sack or food for young;
- Recently fledged or downy young;
- Used nest or eggshells from this season; and
- Distraction display or injury feigning.

Probable breeding includes:

- Pair in suitable nesting habitat;
- Permanent territory (defended over at least 2 survey occasions); and
- Courtship and display.

Possible breeding includes:

- Birds observed in suitable nesting habitat; and
- Singing male.

Non-breeding birds include:

- Birds observed in unsuitable nesting habitat;
- Birds flying over the site;
- Migrants for which no suitable breeding habitat exists on the site.

4.3.1 Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1 Species

No species listed under Schedule 1 of the WCA were recorded during the surveys. However a barn owl was seen flying over fields in the east of the site (Park Farm) on a nocturnal bat activity survey – barn owls are known to frequent the buildings in the farmyard although they are not believed to nest here. A barn owl was also heard during a GCN survey on 5th May 2015 to the north of the site at 20:00. Later a barn owl was seen flying south across Cole Street Lane away from the site at 21:50.

No trees with suitability for barn owl were identified on site. Several buildings outside the Site had potential for nesting barn owl but no evidence was found. Two owl boxes were identified on Site, however both appeared to be in use by jackdaw.

4.3.2 NERC Section 41 Species

Nine species were recorded within the survey area that are listed on Section 41 of the NERC Act; bullfinch, cuckoo, dunnock, house sparrow, linnet, skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and starling. All eight species were recorded within the proposed development site.



Up to three bullfinches (BoCC Amber List) were recorded within and adjacent to Park Farm. Two were recorded on the boundaries of the site (north east and south) and one within a hedgerow at the centre of the site. Up to three were recorded within Ham Farm, two along the western boundary and one in the centre of the site near Pond 12. This species is considered to be a *probable breeder* within the site.

A single cuckoo (BoCC Red List) was recorded flying over the southern field in Park Farm. Two were recorded within Ham Farm, one along the southern boundary and one within a central hedgerow. As cuckoos were infrequently recorded, it is considered most likely that they did not breed within the site. However, dunnocks are a favoured host species for the cuckoo and these were abundant within the site, therefore the cuckoo is considered to be a *possible breeder* within the site.

Dunnocks (BoCC Amber List) were recorded abundantly within the site, with up to around 14 singing males holding territories within Park Farm. All were associated with hedgerows across the site with the exception of two within a patch of scrub to the north west of the site. A further 19 were recorded in Ham Farm within hedgerows across the site. This species is a *confirmed breeder* within the site.

House sparrows (BoCC Red List) were recorded at various places on the periphery of the survey area, generally associated with off-site buildings (adjacent residential development, adjacent industrial estate and Park Farm to the south) with around 18 individuals. Up to 12 were recorded on Ham Farm, associated with residential dwellings to the north, south and west of the site. Although foraging on site, this house sparrows are considered to be *non-breeding*.

Up to two linnets (BoCC Red List) were seen within Park Farm, one flying over the northern field and one within a hedgerow. A further nine were seen in Ham Farm associated with hedgerows across the site. As suitable nesting habitat (scrub and hedgerow) exists within the site, this species is considered to be a *probable breeder* within the site.

Up to seven skylarks (BoCC Red List) were seen within Ham Farm, within five of the grassland fields. The southern fields were grown long for silage during the surveys and were unlikely to be suitable for breeding. Those to the north were grazed however and were more suitable. As such this species is considered to be a *probable breeder* within the site.

Up to three song thrushes (BoCC Red List) were recorded within Park Farm, associated with hedgerows to the centre of the site and the southern boundary. A further 13 were seen in Ham Farm, predominately along the north, east and south boundaries. Up to five were recorded within hedgerows to the centre of the site. As suitable nesting habitat (scrub and hedgerow) exists within the site, this species is considered to be a *probable breeder* within the site.

One spotted flycatcher (BoCC Red List) was recorded at the northern boundary of Ham Farm. As suitable nesting habitat (scrub and hedgerow) exists within the site, this species is considered to be a *probable breeder* within the site.

Starlings (BoCC Red List) were recorded across both Park Farm and Ham Farm during the surveys. These were predominately associated with residential areas adjacent to the site, although they were often recorded foraging to the centre of Ham Farm. As this species was associated with residential areas off site, they are considered to be *non-breeding*.



4.3.3 Other Notable Species

In addition to the above species, a further eight species listed on the BoCC Amber List were recorded during the surveys; little egret, house martin, lesser black-backed gull, mallard, meadow pipit, stock dove, swallow and whitethroat.

A single little egret was recorded adjacent to the River Lodden to the north of the site. Suitable nesting habitat is scarce on site and therefore they are considered to be *non-breeding*.

House martins were recorded flying over the north west field of Park Farm, most likely nesting on buildings within the residential development to the west. Within Ham Farm, house martins were recorded flying in the north east of the site, likely nesting on residential properties to the north. Given suitable nesting areas are all located off site the species is considered to be *non-breeding*.

A single lesser black-backed gull was recorded flying in the north of Ham Farm. Due to the low number of records and lack of suitable habitat they are considered to be *non-breeding*.

Mallard were recorded frequently along the River Lodden and occasionally on Pond 12 which represents the only suitable nesting location on site. This species is not known to have bred within the site but is considered a *possible breeder*.

Up to three meadow pipit were recorded within Ham Farm, one flying over the River Lodden and two within the south east field. The south east field was grown long for silage during the surveys and were unlikely to be suitable for breeding. As such they are considered to be *non-breeding*.

Two stock doves were recorded adjacent to Park Farm, one to the south and one to the west. A single stock dove was recorded in a tree line to the west of Ham Farm. As suitable habitat exists, this species is considered to be a *possible breeder* within the site.

Swallows were recorded flying over both Park Farm and Ham Farm, in small groups on all survey occasions. There are no buildings within the site boundary that would be suitable for nesting swallows and therefore this species is likely to be *non-breeding* within the development site.

One singing male whitethroat was recorded along the south west boundary of Park Farm. As some suitable nesting habitat exists within the site, this species is considered to be a *possible breeder* within the site.

4.3.4 Common and Widespread Species

With the exception of pheasant and red-legged partridge, which are not classified, the remaining 22 species are included on the BoCC Green List of species that are not currently of conservation concern within the UK. Those considered to be breeding (confirmed, probable or possible) are: blackbird, blackcap, blue tit, carrion crow, chiffchaff, collared dove, chaffinch, goldfinch, greenfinch, great tit, jackdaw, long-tailed tit, lesser whitethroat, magpie, pied wagtail, robin, wood pigeon and wren.



5.0 Constraints & Opportunities

5.1 Habitats

Bird records were spread throughout the survey area but were at the highest density within the hedgerow habitats. Records were scarce in the interior of large fields which constitute the majority of the survey area, although the fields within the proposed development site do provide foraging habitat for species such as swallow and skylark.

The proposed development is due to leave the majority of hedgerow and woodland habitats within the site intact, although some hedgerow will be removed to accommodate internal road layouts. Additional planting will be included within the landscaping for the site particularly along the northern boundary adjacent to the River Lodden. Therefore it is considered that nesting opportunities for the majority of bird species recorded will not be significantly reduced by the proposed development in the medium to long term.

Many of the hedgerows within the site are currently thin, low and gappy in nature. To provide further opportunities for nesting birds, **it is recommended that all hedgerows are reinforced with a variety of native species** such as hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, hazel, oak, beech, holly and willow. Reinforced hedgerows will provide nesting and feeding opportunities for birds, as well as a resource for invertebrates, mammals and other wildlife.

The proposed development includes a large amount of public open space in particular along the northern boundary of the site. In order to maximise the value of this feature for wildlife, it is recommended that native species are planted wherever possible. Inclusion of fruiting species such as holly, apple and hawthorn will provide a valuable feeding resource for birds.

All waterbodies are to be retained and as such there will be no loss of aquatic habitats on site.

All wild birds in the UK are protected under Section 1 of 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. To avoid an offence being committed, **it is recommended that any removal of trees, hedgerows or scrub should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season** which runs from March to September inclusive in any given year. If this is not possible, and vegetation removal is required within the nesting season, it is recommended that it is inspected for nests by a suitably experienced ecologist beforehand. Should active nests be found, they must be left in situ with at least a 5 m buffer of intact vegetation until all the young have fledged and cease to return to the nest. To avoid disturbance of nesting birds within existing woodland/hedgerows, **it is recommended that any construction within 10 m of these habitats is commenced outside the nesting season**. If construction has already started and birds nest nearby regardless, it can be assumed that the disturbance is not detrimental and no offence would be committed by working nearby.

Inevitably, the proposed development is likely to bring a certain number of domestic cats to the area which may potentially predate wild birds nesting close to the residential areas. Although there is a risk that this predation pressure will negatively affect the breeding success of birds in the immediate area around the houses, the extent of proposed landscaping is expected to provide further nesting



opportunities. Therefore on balance, the risk of predation from domestic cats is not expected to significantly affect the populations of birds within the site as a whole.

5.2 Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1 Species

No barn owls were recorded nesting within 150m of the site. In order to make sure information on barn owls is up to date, an update barn owl nesting survey should be completed to inform detailed design and layout for each application and prior to construction works in each phase of development. During construction, suitable buffer zones will be implemented as required around any active barn owl nests should they be found. These buffers will be maintained until nesting is complete and compensation nest boxes erected in the open space on site.

5.3 NERC Section 41 Species

Nine species were recorded within the survey area that are listed on Section 41 of the NERC Act; bullfinch, cuckoo, dunnock, house sparrow, linnet, skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and starling. These species are considered to be of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity within England. Of these, all but house sparrow were confirmed, probable or possible breeders. The habitat requirements for these species are diverse.

Bullfinch, dunnock, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher all often nest in dense scrub and hedgerows. Also, by parasitizing the broods of dunnock (which is a favoured host species), these habitats are a requirement of breeding cuckoos. As mentioned above, the proposed development is due to include areas of public open space with additional planting. Therefore it is considered that nesting opportunities for scrub and hedgerow nesting species such as these will not be significantly reduced and may be enhanced. As detailed above, it is recommended that hedgerows within the site are reinforced to enhance their value to wildlife, in particular nesting birds.

House sparrows were associated with existing residential areas adjacent to the site. The development of the site is not considered likely to detrimentally affect the local population of house sparrows, as this species feeds and breeds successfully within residential areas. In order to provide an enhancement for nesting house sparrows, it is recommended that the proposed development includes 'sparrow terraces', comprising at least three nesting chambers each, on a minimum of 1% of new dwellings.

Skylark were recorded probably nesting within fields to the north of Ham Farm. This area is to form part of the public open space and as such it is considered that opportunities for nesting skylark will not be significantly reduced.

Starlings were recorded at various locations throughout the site. Starlings nest largely in tree-holes and in cavities within buildings. As the majority of woodland within the site is not due to be affected by the proposed development, a detrimental effect on starlings is not anticipated. In order to provide an additional enhancement for this species, it is recommended that starling boxes are installed on a minimum of 1% of new dwellings.



5.4 Other Notable Species

In addition to the above species, a further eight species listed on the BoCC Amber List were recorded during the surveys; little egret, house martin, lesser black-backed gull, mallard, meadow pipit, stock dove, swallow and whitethroat.

Little egret were not considered to be breeding and all aquatic habitats will be retained and protected.

House martins were likely nesting on buildings adjacent to the site. The proposed development is not due to have a detrimental effect on nesting or foraging house martins, and may provide additional nesting opportunities for this species due to new buildings proposed for the site.

A single lesser black-backed gull was recorded on site and was not considered to be breeding.

A mallard was recorded within the site and frequently along the River Lodden. Although this species is not thought to have bred within the site during, the retention of the aquatic habitats within the site boundary is welcomed as it provides a potential nesting place for this species.

Meadow pipit were not considered to be breeding on site. The large areas of open space to be managed as grassland will maintain suitable nesting and foraging habitat on site.

Stock dove were considered to be possible breeders. Suitable habitat such as woodland is to be retained as part of the development and no significant effect is anticipated.

Swallows were likely nesting on buildings adjacent to the site. There is not due to be a detrimental effect on nesting or foraging swallows, and as additional buildings are being created, additional nesting opportunities will present themselves to this species.

5.5 Common and Widespread Species

A variety of other bird species were recorded during the surveys including a number of species confirmed to have bred within the site. The provision of additional planting along and within hedgerows and the installation of nest boxes as recommended above will provide additional nesting opportunities for birds within the proposed development. Therefore the majority of scrub, hedgerow and woodland nesting birds are not due to be significantly affected by the proposed development in the long to medium term.

The provision of nest boxes for some notable bird species as well as common and widespread species will provide suitable breeding sites in the short to medium term until the compensatory habitat is mature enough to provide such features, while residential buildings and gardens will provide foraging and nesting opportunities for a range of common and widespread species. In addition to species-specific boxes above, it is recommended that a mixture of open and hole-fronted boxes are installed within suitable habitat totalling 5% of the number of dwellings.



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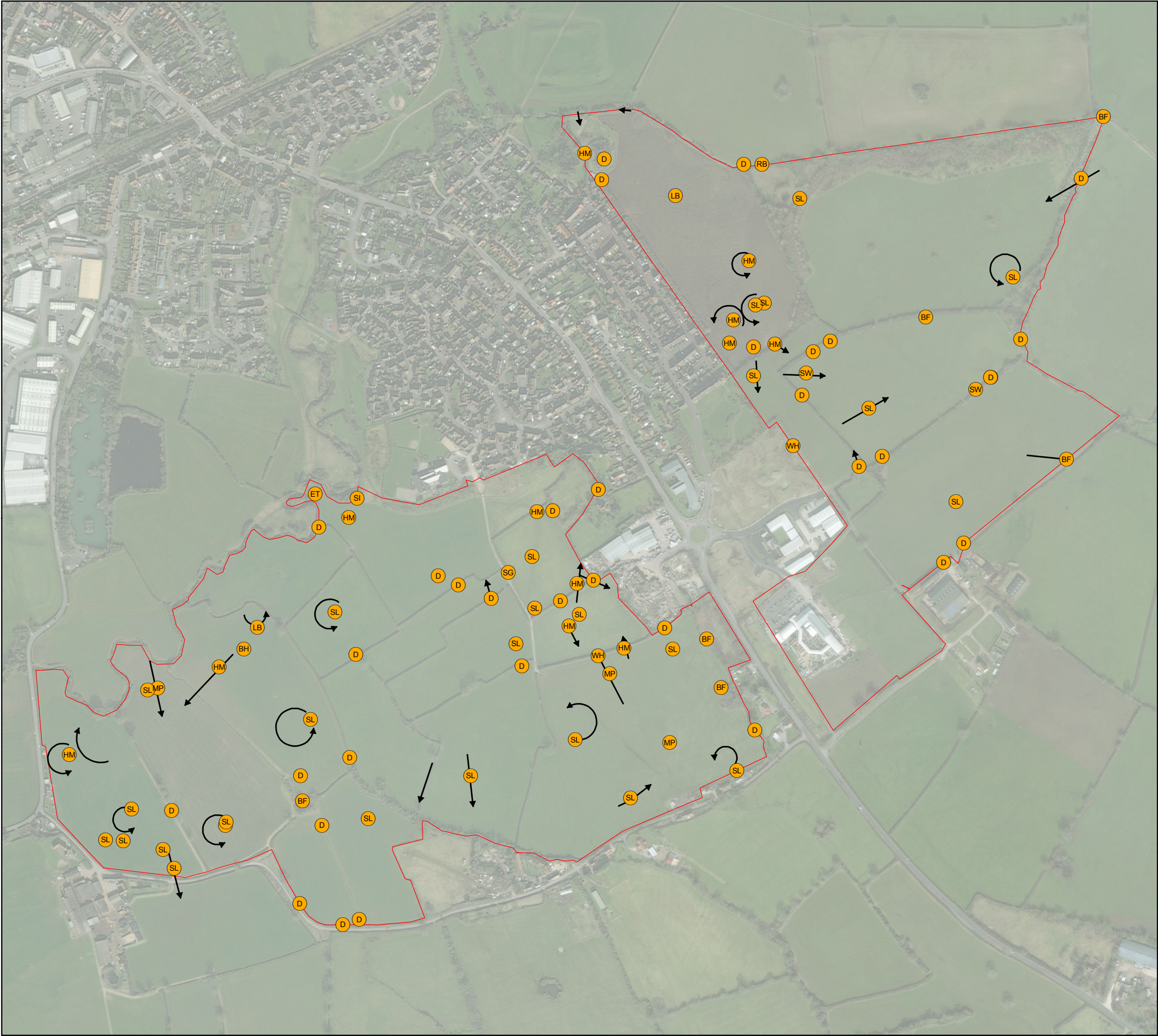


FIGURES

**Figure 1 – Breeding Birds BoCC
Green List species**

**Figure 2 – Breeding Birds BoCC
Amber List species**

**Figure 3 – Breeding Birds Sch 1 and
BoCC Red List species**



Rev	Date	Notes
A	14/11/17	Initial map production

Legend

- Site boundary
- Amber List Species
- Flight Arrow

0 50 100 200 Metres



Amber Listed Birds

Gillingham

Scale at A3: 1:5,750	Project No: A106314	Drawing No: Figure 2	Revision: A
Drawn by: Ben Blowers	Drawn date: 14/11/2017	Approved by: David West	

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Rev	Date	Notes
A	14/11/17	Initial map production

Legend

- Site boundary
- Red List Species
- Flight Arrow

0 50 100 200 Metres



Red Listed Birds

Gillingham

Scale at A3: 1:5,750	Project No: A106314	Drawing No: Figure 3	Revision: A
Drawn by: Ben Blowers	Drawn date: 14/11/2017	Approved by: David West	

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