



Candwr Solar Farm

Pre Application Consultation

Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.3 Breeding Bird Survey Report

2 July 2026



Appendix 6.3: Breeding Bird Survey Report (2025)

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Avian Ecology Limited (AEL) was commissioned by Pegasus Planning Group to undertake baseline breeding bird surveys in relation to the proposed construction and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure ('the Proposed Development') on land at Court Farm, which lies north of Ponthir, Newport, Monmouthshire ('the Site').
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this report is to present details of the field surveys undertaken, as well as associated desk study data gathering (methods and results), in relation to breeding birds, and which inform the Development of National Significance (DNS) submission, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and any required mitigation and enhancement measures.
- 1.1.3 Only common bird species names are referred to within the main text of this report. A summary of all bird species recorded during the surveys, or referenced within the text, are presented alongside their scientific names and conservation status in **Annex 1**.
- 1.1.4 For details of non-breeding birds see **Appendix 6.7**.

1.2 Site description

- 1.2.1 The Site is dominated by cattle and sheep grazed pasture, within a rolling pastoral farmland landscape. Pockets of broadleaved woodland are connected via hawthorn dominated hedgerows. The Afon Lwyd water course flows between the land parcels that comprise the Site, before flowing into the River Usk, which joins the Severn Estuary approximately 9 km south of the Site.

1.3 Previous survey work

- 1.3.1 This report presents details of breeding bird surveys undertaken in 2025 and it is the results of these surveys that inform the impact assessment. However, breeding bird surveys for the Proposed Development had also been undertaken previously in 2023. The updated surveys undertaken in 2025 supersede those of 2023, however for completeness a summary of the 2023 results are included in **Section 3.2** and full details of the 2023 breeding bird surveys are included in a summary report provided as an annex to this report (**Annex 3**). Note that the breeding bird surveys undertaken in 2023 and 2025 were based on the site boundary that was current at the time the surveys were completed (see **Section 2.3** and **Annex 3**).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Zone of Influence

- 2.1.1 Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance (CIEEM, 2018 (updated 2024))¹ regarding Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA), recommends that all ecological (and ornithological) features that occur within a 'Zone of Influence' (Zol) for a proposed development are investigated. The ornithological features for investigation comprise relevant designated protected areas that would be subject to direct or indirect impacts (including temporarily), and bird species

¹ CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.3. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester. Available online at: <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/EclA-Guidelines-v1.3-Sept-2024.pdf> (Accessed December 2025)

present within the vicinity of the Site or that have potential connectivity to the Site. The applicable Zol is dependent on the ornithological feature affected.

- 2.1.2 This guidance has informed the data gathering study areas used to inform the impact assessment. The size of study areas that have been used for the Proposed Development in relation to breeding birds are summarised in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1: Study Area

Ornithological receptor/ data source	Study area
Statutory designated sites for nature conservation with breeding bird qualifying interests/reasons for designation	The Site and within 10 km of the Site
Non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation with breeding bird reasons for designation	The Site and within 2 km of the Site
Desk study records	Within the Site and 2 km of the Site during the last ten years (since 2015)
Breeding bird survey (field survey)	The Site and a 100 m buffer

2.2 Desk study

- 2.2.1 A desk study was undertaken to determine the presence of any designated nature conservation sites with breeding bird qualifying interests, and records of priority species (breeding birds) within the Zol of the Site.
- 2.2.2 In June 2025, data were obtained following a request to the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) for relevant species records and details of locally designated sites, as set out in **Table 2.1**. Note that the species records returned include all ornithological records on the database and are not specific to breeding birds.
- 2.2.3 In addition, a data search was undertaken of relevant publicly available data and online databases to identify statutory designated sites and additional non-statutory sites within the appropriate study areas (**Table 2.1**). These included:
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)²;
 - The Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website³;
 - DataMap Wales⁴;
 - Monmouthshire and Torfaen Local Nature Recovery Action Plan⁵; and
 - Newport City Council Biodiversity List⁶.

2.3 Breeding bird survey

- 2.3.1 Breeding bird surveys were undertaken between April and July 2025, based on guidance from the Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2025)⁷. The surveys comprised a series of six survey visits spread

² Available online at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/> (Accessed November 2025)

³ Available online at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/Magic_redirect.htm?aspxerrorpath=/MagicMap.aspx (Accessed: November 2025)

⁴ Available online at: <https://datamap.gov.wales/> (Accessed November 2025)

⁵ Available online at: <https://bgtorfaenlnp.wales/assets/FINAL-designed-version-ENG-03-01-24.pdf> (Accessed November 2025)

⁶ Available online at: <https://live.newport.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity> (Accessed November 2025)

⁷ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2025) Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts. Available online at: <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> (Accessed April 2025)

out over the survey period, with each visit undertaken over a number of days due to the large extent of the study area.

- 2.3.2 Five of the survey visits were carried out from dawn, finishing no later than 11:00hrs. One of the six visits was conducted in the evening (i.e. pre and post sunset) to pick up species not readily recorded by conventional surveys early in the morning (e.g. owl species). As much as possible, surveys were scheduled to be carried out in conditions suitable for detecting and recording breeding birds (avoiding persistent heavy rain and strong winds). Survey effort is presented in **Table 2.2**. Details of weather conditions during each visit are presented in **Annex 2**.

Table 2.2: Breeding bird survey effort

Survey Visit	Date	Start Time (24hrs)	End Time (24hrs)	Survey Type	Sunrise / Sunset
1	23/04/2025	05:09	11:00	Dawn	05:59 / 20:23
	24/04/2025	05:00	10:55		05:57 / 20:23
2	28/05/2025	05:05	09:50	Dawn	05:03 / 20:16
	29/05/2025	05:05	10:20		05:02 / 21:18
	30/05/2025	05:05	09:30		05:02 / 21:18
3	02/06/2025	05:00	11:00	Dawn	04:58 / 21:21
	03/06/2025	05:10	08:30		04:58 / 21:22
	04/06/2025	05:00	10:50		04:57 / 21:23
4	11/06/2025	04:45	09:50	Dawn	04:54 / 21:29
	12/06/2025	04:45	08:20		04:53 / 21:30
	13/06/2025	04:45	09:55		04:53 / 21:30
5	02/07/2025	18:20	22:38	Dusk	04:59 / 21:32
	03/07/2025	18:25	22:35		04:59 / 21:32
	04/07/2025	18:20	22:35		05:00 / 21:31
6	15/07/2025	05:03	09:18	Dawn	05:11 / 21:23
	16/07/2025	05:08	10:07		05:13 / 21:22
	17/07/2025	05:20	10:05		05:14 / 21:21

- 2.3.3 The breeding bird survey area (hereafter the ‘Survey Area’) is illustrated in **Figure 1** and comprised the Site (as proposed at the time of survey completion), as well as a surrounding 100 m Site buffer. Coverage of the 100 m buffer was observed from within the Site boundary.
- 2.3.4 Small changes have been made to the Site boundary since completion of the breeding bird surveys in 2025. Those parts of the current Site and 100 m Site buffer that lie outside the 2025 Survey Area (previous Site boundary plus 100 m) are highlighted in **Figure 1**. These ‘unsurveyed areas’ mostly comprise parts of the 100 m buffer, with a minimal area within the current Site boundary not covered during the 2025 breeding bird surveys. Further discussion on this issue is provided in **Section 2.4**.
- 2.3.5 During the surveys, all ‘Priority Species’ (see below) were recorded on suitably scaled field maps using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species codes⁸ and behaviour notations (such as ‘singing’, ‘carrying food’, or ‘active nest’). In line with the survey objectives and the scale of the assessment, a broad territory mapping approach was adopted. This approach treats each observation of a species exhibiting breeding or territorial behaviour as a territory or breeding pair within the mapped area. On

⁸ Available online at: https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u10/downloads/taking-part/species_codes.pdf (Accessed April 2025)

completion of all survey visits, examination of the data was undertaken and where multiple observations or registrations of the same species occurred across survey visits in close proximity, these records were treated as relating to the same territory (cluster analysis method).

- 2.3.6 Breeding evidence was classified according to standard criteria (see **Table 2.3**). Note that the number of territories recorded represents a broad estimate rather than being the result of intensive territory mapping, which is in accordance with good practice for site-wide breeding bird surveys (following breeding bird survey methods described in Gilbert *et al.*, 1998⁹).

Table 2.3: Criteria for breeding evidence (adapted from Sharrock, 1974¹⁰; Gillings *et al.*, 2013¹¹).

Possible	Probable	Confirmed
- Individual observed in suitable nesting habitat. - Singing male in suitable breeding habitat.	- Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. - Permanent territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song etc.) from many individuals on one day. - Courtship and display. - Visiting probable nest site. - Agitated behaviour or calls suggesting probable presence of nest or young nearby. - Nest building or excavation.	- Distraction display or injury feigning. - Used nest or eggshells. - Recently fledged young. - Adults entering or leaving nest site or adults seen incubating. - Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young. - Nest containing eggs. - Nest with young.

Source: Sharrock (1974) and Gillings *et al.* (2013).

- 2.3.7 The bird species recorded and mapped on Site during the breeding bird surveys were those considered to be 'Priority Species' relevant to the Proposed Development. These comprised Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Amber and Red List Species for Wales (Johnstone *et al.* 2023)¹²**Error! Bookmark not defined.**; birds listed under Section 7 (S7) of the Environment Wales Act 2016¹³ (applicable at the time of survey), Annex 1¹⁴ species, Schedule 1¹⁵ species and species listed in the Monmouthshire Local Nature Recovery Plan (LNRP)¹⁶. The only species recorded and mapped within the Survey Area but outside the Site boundary (i.e. within the 100 m buffer) were Schedule 1 species (these species having increased protection during the breeding season).

- 2.3.8 Presence of common and widespread species that were not classified as Priority Species (i.e. BoCC Green List Species and non-native species), hereafter referred to as 'Secondary Species', were also

⁹ Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D.W & Evans, J. (1998) *Bird monitoring methods. A manual of techniques for key UK species*. RSPB, Sandy.

¹⁰ Sharrock, J.T.R. (1974) 'Minutes of the second meeting of the European Ornithological Atlas Committee', in: Pinowski, J. and Williamson, K. (eds). *Proceedings of the Fourth Meeting of the International Bird Census Committee and the Second Meeting of the European Ornithological Atlas Committee, Acta Ornithologica*, 14(6), pp. 261–268.

¹¹ Gillings, S., Balmer, D. E., Caffrey, B. J. and Swann, B. (2013) 'Survey methods and data sources', in: Balmer, D. E., Gillings, S., Caffrey, B. J., Swann, R. L., Downie, I. S. & Fuller, R. J. (eds) (2013) *Bird Atlas 2007–11: The Breeding and Wintering Birds of Britain and Ireland*. Thetford, UK: BTO Books. pp. 34–45.

¹² Johnstone, I.G., Hughes, J., Balmer, D.E., Brenchley, A., Facey, R.J., Lindley, P.J., Noble, D.G. & Taylor, R.C. (2022) Birds of Conservation Concern Wales 4: the population status of birds in Wales. *Milvus* (the Journal of the Welsh Ornithological Society).

¹³ Welsh Government (2016) Environment (Wales) Act (2016) Section 7. Previously available online at: <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en/legislation-guidance/section-7/> (Accessed November 2025)

¹⁴ Annex 1 – species listed on Annex 1 of the EC Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament on the conservation of wild birds. Available online at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/threatened/index_en.htm (Accessed November 2025).

¹⁵ Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Available online at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/1> (Accessed November 2025)

¹⁶ Available online at: <https://moderngov.microshadeapplications.co.uk/MonmouthTC/documents/s3910/Local%20NRAP%20Part%201%20Draft%20for%20Consultation.pdf> (Accessed November 2025).

recorded during each survey visit. However, locations were not mapped and breeding behaviour was not recorded for these species, with effort concentrated on identifying and mapping Priority Species.

2.3.9 Field surveys were undertaken by S. Cunningham; an experienced ornithologist.

2.4 Limitations

2.4.1 Small alterations have been made to the Site boundary since the data request was made. Therefore, the data obtained from SEWBRc, which were obtained for the Site and a surrounding 2 km, refer to a search area based on the Site boundary as was current at that time (June 2025). This is considered as having had a minimal impact on the desk study data gathered, however, as the (current) Site lies fully within the search area. Any excluded species records, that may have been included if the current Site boundary had been used, would be at the far edge of the 2 km buffer, where the Proposed Development would not be expected to have a detectable impact.

2.4.2 The data provided by SEWBRc included a list of non-statutory designated sites (wildlife sites and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)) within the 2 km search area, some of which do not have a citation. Only those locally designated sites that have ornithological features listed in an accompanying citation are listed in the results. It can be expected that for the majority of the remaining locally designated sites (particularly woodland sites) that the habitats would support a variety of bird species but their importance for ornithological features is unknown. The ornithological features present in these additional sites would be expected to be similar to those found in sites that have been included in the impact assessment.

2.4.3 The species data returned by SEWBRc included sets of records where a number of sightings were recorded over a period of time, as opposed to a specific date. As such, some sets of records spanned a date range that included a time period before 2015 (i.e. including records from before the last 10 years that was the focus of the data search). These records cannot be separated into pre- and post-2015. A precautionary approach has been used, and all such records are included in the search results.

2.4.4 During the field surveys, there were occasional days when weather conditions were outside those normally considered suitable for bird recording (see **Annex 2**). For example, there were two dates where wind speed was above a force four. However, due to each survey visit comprising more than one day on Site, and six survey visits being completed in total, it is considered that the time spent on Site (in mostly suitable weather conditions) was sufficient to adequately inform the baseline and survey conditions are not considered to have limited the robustness of the survey results.

2.4.5 Although the large majority of the Site is unchanged, small alterations have been made to the Site boundary since completion of the breeding bird surveys in 2025. The unsurveyed part of the Site and 100 m buffer, as shown on **Figure 1**, are those areas that lie outside the 2025 Survey Area and this mostly comprises parts of the buffer, with a very minimal area within the Site boundary unsurveyed. The absence of records from these unsurveyed parts of the 100 m Site buffer (in which only Schedule 1 species would have been recorded as per the methodology described above) is not considered to be a substantive limitation, especially as much of the unsurveyed area is physically separated from the Site by public roads. Overall coverage of the Site and 100 m Site buffer is very high and considered to be more than sufficient to categorise the baseline breeding bird assemblage.

2.4.6 The S7 list of species of principal importance in Wales was updated in March 2026¹⁷. However, although the survey data were gathered before the list was updated, as the large number of bird species added to the updated S7 list were added based mostly on their Red and Amber listed BoCC status in Wales¹², these species were already considered Priority Species during field survey recording.

¹⁷ Available online at: <https://www.gov.wales/section-7-list-species-and-habitats-principal-importance-wales> (Accessed May 2026)

It is the updated S7 list that has been used in this report, where relevant, when discussing the conservation status of a bird species.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Desk study

Statutory designated sites of ornithological importance (breeding)

3.1.1 Several internationally and nationally designated sites of breeding season ornithological importance are located within proximity to the Site. Within 10 km of the Site lies the internationally designated area of the Severn Estuary (Wales) Ramsar site, which is situated 8.5 km to the south of the Site. Note this area is also a Special Protection Area (SPA) but the SPA's qualifying features are non-breeding species (see Appendix 6.7). The closest nationally designated site with ornithological interests is the River Usk (Lower Usk) / Afon Wysg (Wysg Isaf) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is located 1.4 km to the south-east of the Site.

3.1.2 **Table 3.1** provides a summary of statutory designated sites with breeding ornithological interests located within 10 km of the Site boundary. The site descriptions come from the relevant citation. The locations of these designated areas in relation to the Site are included on **Figure 2**.

Table 3.1: Statutory designated sites with qualifying breeding ornithology interests or reasons for designation.

LNR: Local Nature Reserve; SSSI: Site of Special Scientific Interest; SPA: Special Protection Area.

Designated area name	Designation	Approximate distance from Site	Description (ornithological features only)
River Usk (Lower Usk) / Afon Wysg (Wysg Isaf)	SSSI	1.4 km south-east	Supports a wide range of breeding birds such as sand martin, kingfisher, yellow wagtail, grey wagtail, dipper and marsh warbler ¹⁸ .
St. Julian's	LNR	2.5 km south	Site with ancient woodland, semi-improved grassland and stream. Supports numerous breeding bird species ¹⁹ .
Church Wood and Springvale Ponds	LNR	3.7 km west	Multiple areas of urban greenspace with ancient woodland, ponds and grasslands that support breeding kingfisher ²⁰ .
Allt-Yr-Tn	LNR	4.9 km south-west	Ninety-four bird species have been recorded within the site ²¹ . (Note this list includes non-breeding species and occasional visitors).

¹⁸ Citation available online at: https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/663716/SSSI_1425_Citation_EN0016492.pdf (Accessed November 2025)

¹⁹ Citation available online at: <https://democracy.newport.gov.uk/documents/s1811/Local%20Nature%20Reserve%20Designation%20May%202015.pdf> (Accessed November 2025)

²⁰ Citation available online at: <https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/Related-Documents/Countryside/Local-Nature-Reserves.pdf> (Accessed November 2025)

²¹ Species list available online at: <https://www.landscapebritain.co.uk/nature-reserves/newport-casnewydd/allt-yr-yn-local-nature-reserve/> (Accessed November 2025)

Designated area name	Designation	Approximate distance from Site	Description (ornithological features only)
Severn Estuary / Môr Hafren	Ramsar site	8.5 km south	Species breeding at levels of national importance: • Lesser black-backed gull²². (Non-breeding qualifying features not listed).
Newport Wetlands	SSSI	8.6 km south	Breeding populations of ringed plover and little ringed plover are present ²³ . (Non-breeding qualifying features not listed).
Tir-Pentwys	LNR	8.7 km north-west	A former landfill and colliery site that supports breeding tree pipit, nuthatch, great spotted woodpecker and green woodpecker ²⁴ .

Non-statutory designated sites of ornithological importance – SEWBrEC data

3.1.3 **Table 3.2** provides a summary of non-statutory designated sites with breeding ornithological interests located within 2 km of the Site boundary (where this information is available). Where the season (breeding or non-breeding) of qualifying interest is unspecified, a breeding season interest has been assumed, and the site has been included in the search results. The locations of these designated areas in relation to the Site are included on **Figure 3**.

3.1.4 Several non-statutory designated sites with breeding ornithological interests lie within 2 km of the Site. The closest such area is Ponthir Sewage Works SINC, which is located directly adjacent to the Site's southern boundary.

Table 3.2: Non-statutory designated sites with qualifying breeding ornithology interests.

SINC: Site of Important Nature Conservation.

Site	Designation(s)	Approximate distance from the Site	Description
Ponthir Sewage Work	SINC	Directly adjacent to the southern Site boundary	Supports owls ²⁵ , snipe, blackcap, linnet, goldeneye, sandpiper ²⁵ , green woodpecker, goshawk, goosander and kingfisher.
County Hall	SINC	1.4 km north-west	Supports a variety of breeding birds.
Llantarnam Ponds	SINC	1.6 km south-west	Supports kingfisher, goosander and cormorant.

²² Citation available online at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/uk11081.pdf> (Accessed November 2025)

²³ Citation available online at: <https://gat04-live-1517c8a4486c41609369c68f30c8-aa81074.divio-media.org/M4-Newport/C%20-%20Core%20Documents/11.%20Ecology%20and%20Nature%20Conservation/11.4.7.pdf> (Accessed December 2025)

²⁴ Information available online at: <https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/Related-Documents/Countryside/Local-Nature-Reserves.pdf> (Accessed May 2025)

²⁵ Actual species is not specified.

Ornithological records - SEWBreC data

- 3.1.5 The SEWBreC data search returned 1,038 records of 77 species within the search area (Site plus 2 km) during the last ten years. This included 12 species listed on Schedule 1²⁶ of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: avocet, barn owl, Cetti's warbler, common crossbill, firecrest, goshawk, hobby, kingfisher, marsh harrier, osprey, peregrine and red kite. However, there were no records of these species breeding within the Site, with only one record of a Schedule 1 species returned from within the Site itself, of a peregrine in 2021 (non-breeding).
- 3.1.6 The data returned included eight species listed on Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive: avocet, little gull, osprey, marsh harrier, red kite, kingfisher, peregrine and barnacle goose. Again, the non-breeding peregrine record was the only one from within the Site.
- 3.1.7 A total of 28 S7 species were included in the data return from the search area. These species comprised: black-headed gull, bullfinch, dunnoek, goldcrest, greenfinch, green woodpecker, hawfinch, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser black-backed gull, linnet, marsh tit, pied flycatcher, redpoll, reed bunting, skylark, snipe, spotted flycatcher, starling, tree pipit, turtle dove, whitethroat, willow warbler, wood warbler and yellow wagtail. Within the Site, the S7 species with records comprised bullfinch, dunnoek, herring gull, kestrel, linnet, redpoll and starling.
- 3.1.8 The data search returned 28 Red Listed species and 24 Amber Listed species on BoCC Wales. In the interests of concision these species are not listed out in full, but there is much overlap with the S7 species listed above.

3.2 Breeding bird survey – 2023

- 3.2.1 Taken from the 2023 summary report, the Survey Area (2023 Site boundary plus a 100 m buffer) was found to support a breeding bird assemblage that included nine 'Notable Species' typical of the locale and indicative of habitats present. These comprised stock dove (one territory), woodpigeon (one territory), skylark (one territory), willow warbler (one territory), wren (24 territories), song thrush (three territories), dunnoek (four territories), greenfinch (one territory) and linnet (two territories) for which breeding evidence was recorded within the Survey Area. The skylark territory was found in open ground within the Site whilst the other species were associated with field boundaries (hedgerows and woodland) within the Survey Area. Note that 'Notable species' during the 2023 surveys differed from 2025 in that they included species listed as Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Amber and Red List Species for the UK (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021²⁷) rather than those listed as BoCC Amber and Red List Species for Wales (Johnstone *et al.* 2023¹²), as has been used for the updated surveys. Updating the 2023 survey results to be consistent with the 2025 surveys, woodpigeon and wren would be excluded from the list above, whilst goldcrest (1 territory) and chaffinch (3 territories) would be added.
- 3.2.2 The two survey years are not directly comparable as the Site boundary has evolved since completion of the 2023 breeding bird surveys.

3.3 Breeding bird survey – 2025

- 3.3.1 The estimated number of breeding territories of Priority Species recorded in the Survey Area is provided in **Table 3.1**, with these territories also mapped and presented on **Figures 4b-e**. The breeding

²⁶ Note that species are not listed if they are only present in south Wales as non-breeding birds (e.g. redwing, which is solely a winter visitor but is Schedule 1 listed in relation to its small Scottish breeding population).

²⁷ Stanbury, A., Eaton, 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.

bird assemblage recorded within the Survey Area is considered representative of the locale and the agricultural, woodland and field boundary habitats present.

3.3.2 As summarised in **Table 3.3** and illustrated on **Figures 4b-e**, a total of 13 Priority Species were recorded as breeding within the Site, with no Schedule 1 species identified as breeding within the Site nor the 100 m buffer. Breeding territories for the 13 Priority Species recorded within the Site comprised:

- Six BoCC Wales Red List species: goldcrest, greenfinch, spotted flycatcher, whitethroat, willow warbler and yellow wagtail.
- Six BoCC Wales Amber List species: chaffinch, dunnoek, green woodpecker, house sparrow, magpie and skylark.
- Eleven species listed as 'rare and most threatened species' under S7 (these overlap with the Red and Amber listed species above): dunnoek, goldcrest, greenfinch, green woodpecker, house sparrow, magpie, skylark, spotted flycatcher, whitethroat, willow warbler and yellow wagtail.
- Six species listed on the Monmouthshire LNRP (these overlap with the S7 species listed above): dunnoek, house sparrow, skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and yellow wagtail.

Table 3.3: Breeding bird territories for Priority Species recorded within the Site (2025).

Species	Total Site Estimated Territories	Comments
Dunnoek	13	Associated with boundary features of hedgerows and tree lines within the Site.
Song thrush	12	Associated with boundary features of hedgerows, tree lines and woodland within the Site.
Chaffinch	11	Associated with boundary features of hedgerows, tree lines and woodland within the Site.
Goldcrest	7	Associated with boundary features of woodland and tree lines within the Site.
Skylark	4	Within the arable and pastoral fields in the north of the Site.
House sparrow	3	Associated with built areas along roads in the south of the Site.
Spotted flycatcher	3	Associated with boundary features, particularly woodland, within the Site.
Green woodpecker	2	Associated with trees within boundary features of hedgerows and tree lines within the Site.
Magpie	2	Associated with trees within boundary features of hedgerows and tree lines within the Site.
Whitethroat	2	Associated with boundary features of hedgerows within the Site.
Greenfinch	1	Within boundary hedgerow along track in the south of the Site.
Willow warbler	1	Within woodland adjacent to bordering stream in the south of the Site.
Yellow wagtail	1	Within arable field in the north of the Site.

3.3.3 No species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or Annex 1 of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive) were confirmed as breeding within the Survey Area. Priority Species listed on Schedule 1 observed within the Site comprised red kite, hobby and kingfisher, but these species were all recorded on one survey visit only. Suitable breeding habitat is present for hobby and red kite (mature trees/woodland) and kingfisher (small streams) within the Site; however,

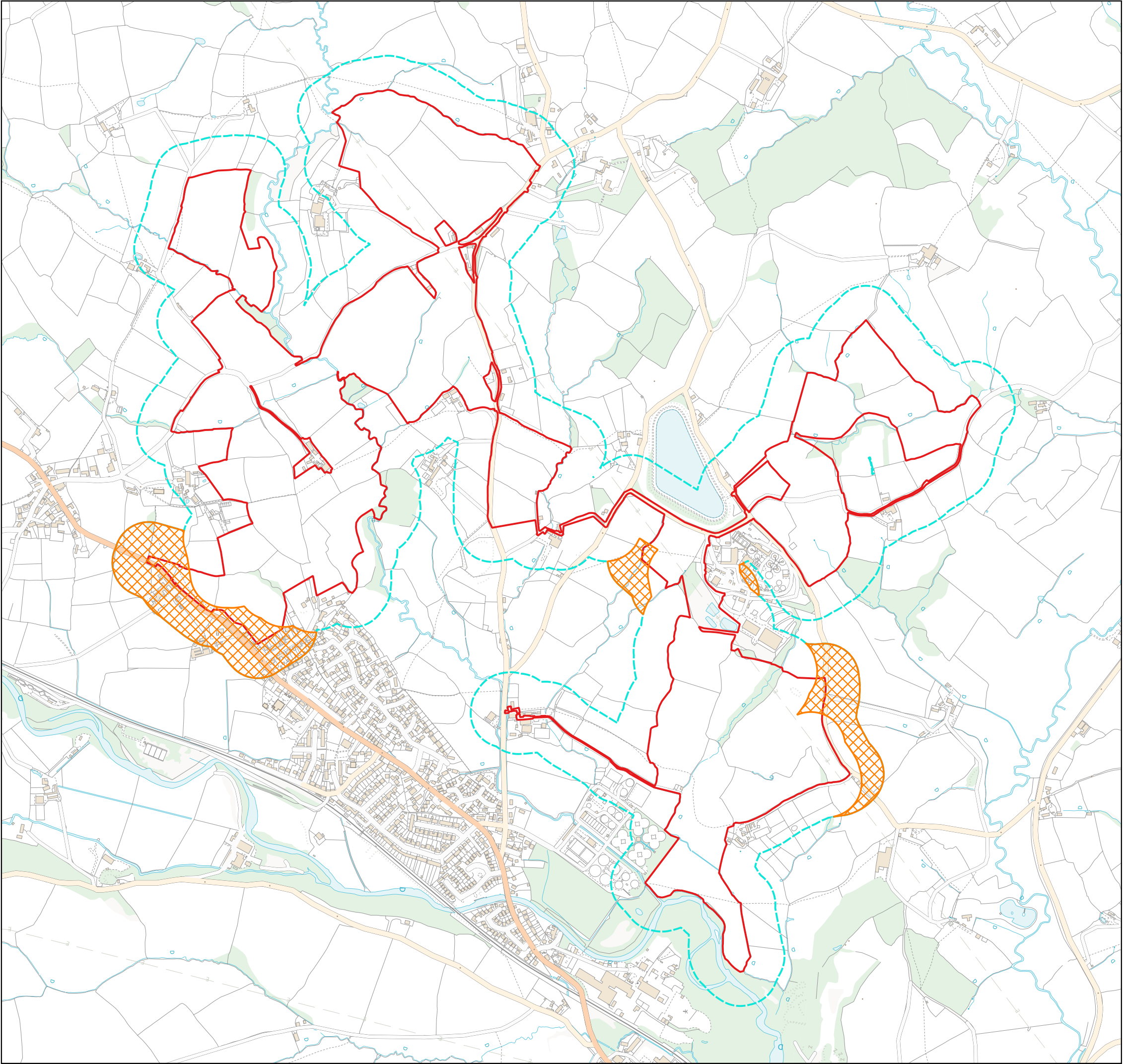
there was no evidence of breeding within the Site, and both the hobby and kingfisher records came from mid-July, which likely reflects post-breeding records.

- 3.3.4 There were two species recorded that are listed qualifying features (breeding) of a designated area located within 2 km of the Site: yellow wagtail and green woodpecker (see **Table 3.1**).
- 3.3.5 Within the Site, the number of breeding territories was low for the majority of Priority Species, with more than half of the Priority Species (eight of 13) totalling one to three pairs. Only three Priority Species recorded more than 10 territories: dunnock (13), song thrush (12) and chaffinch (11).
- 3.3.6 Skylark (four territories) and yellow wagtail (one territory) were the only ground-nesting Priority Species recorded in the Survey Area. All four of the skylark territories were located within large arable fields and the yellow wagtail territory was in a pastoral field, with these all being located in the northern part of the Site.
- 3.3.1 Breeding territories of non-ground nesting Priority Species were typically associated with vegetation along field boundaries, which principally comprised of hedgerows, tree lines, woodland and scattered scrub habitats within or bordering the Site. Other boundary features included watercourses and roads.
- 3.3.2 A range of Priority Species were also recorded that were possible breeders within the Site but for which breeding territories could not be confirmed (e.g. a singing bird recorded in a location on one survey visit only). These additional Priority Species comprised bullfinch, coal tit, garden warbler, grey wagtail, house martin, linnet, mistle thrush and starling.
- 3.3.3 Secondary Species noted as breeding within the Site comprised blackbird, blackcap, blue tit, carrion crow, chiffchaff, collared dove, goldfinch, great spotted woodpecker, great tit, jackdaw, jay, long-tailed tit, mallard, nuthatch, pied wagtail, raven, robin, sparrowhawk, stock dove, stonechat, swallow, tawny owl, treecreeper, woodpigeon and wren.

4 SUMMARY

- 4.1.1 The 2025 breeding bird surveys identified no species breeding on-Site that are listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- 4.1.2 A total of 13 Priority Species were recorded breeding within the Site. Skylark and yellow wagtail were the only ground-nesting Priority Species recorded breeding within the Site, with four estimated territories and one estimate territory, respectively. The ground-nesting Priority Species territories were located within large arable fields (skylark) and a pastoral field (yellow wagtail) within the northern part of the Site.
- 4.1.3 The remaining Priority Species territories were located along field boundaries features such as hedgerows, tree lines, and woodland within and bordering the Site.

Figure 1: Breeding bird survey plan



-  Site
-  100m Site Buffer
-  Unsurveyed areas

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Breeding Bird Survey Area

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Date: 27/05/2026



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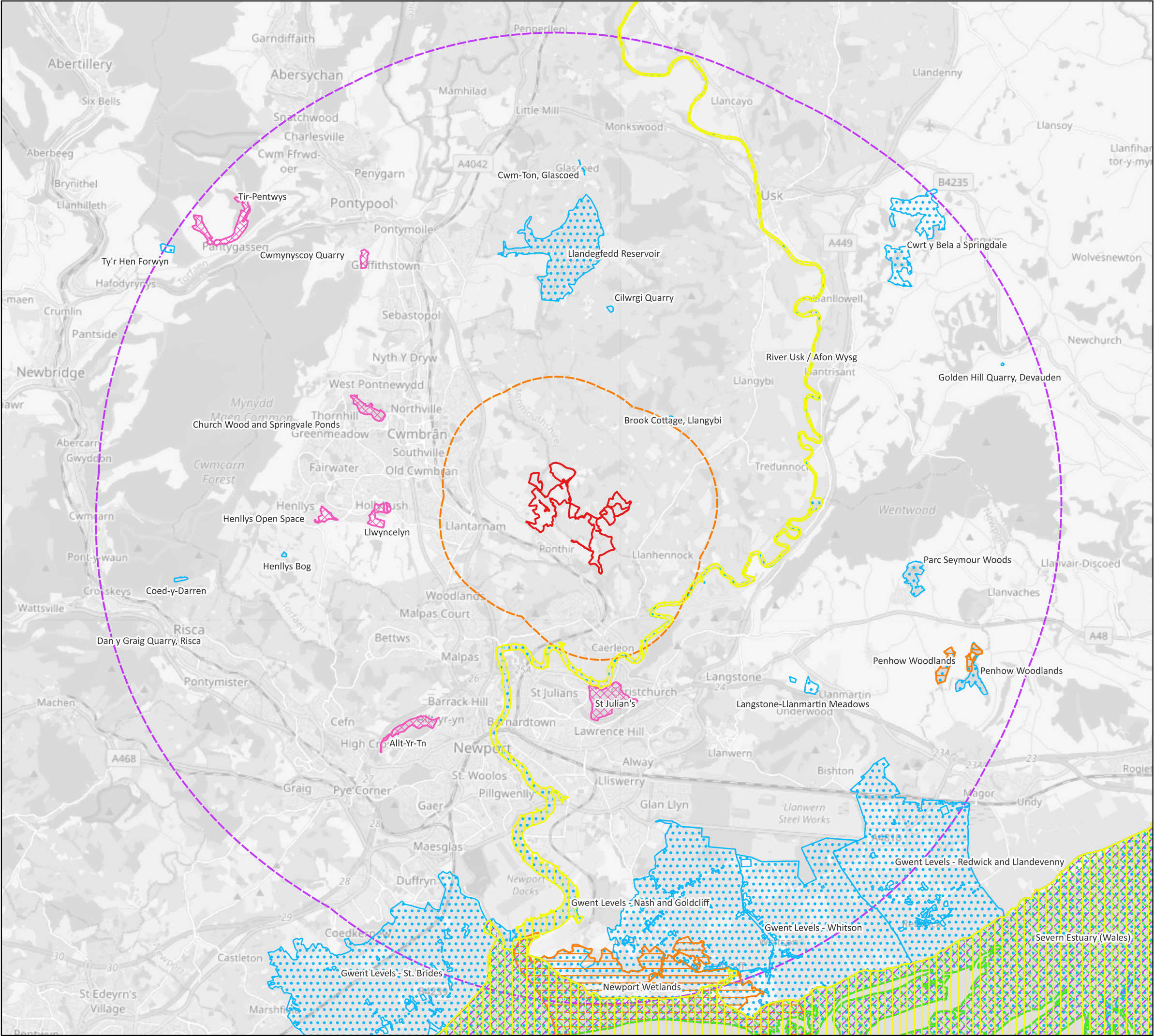
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Figure 2: Statutory designated sites



- Site
- 10km Search Buffer
- 2km Search Buffer
- Statutory Designated Sites
 - RAMSAR
 - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Local Nature Reserve
 - National Nature Reserve

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Statutory Designated Sites

Version: 01

Date: 27/05/2026

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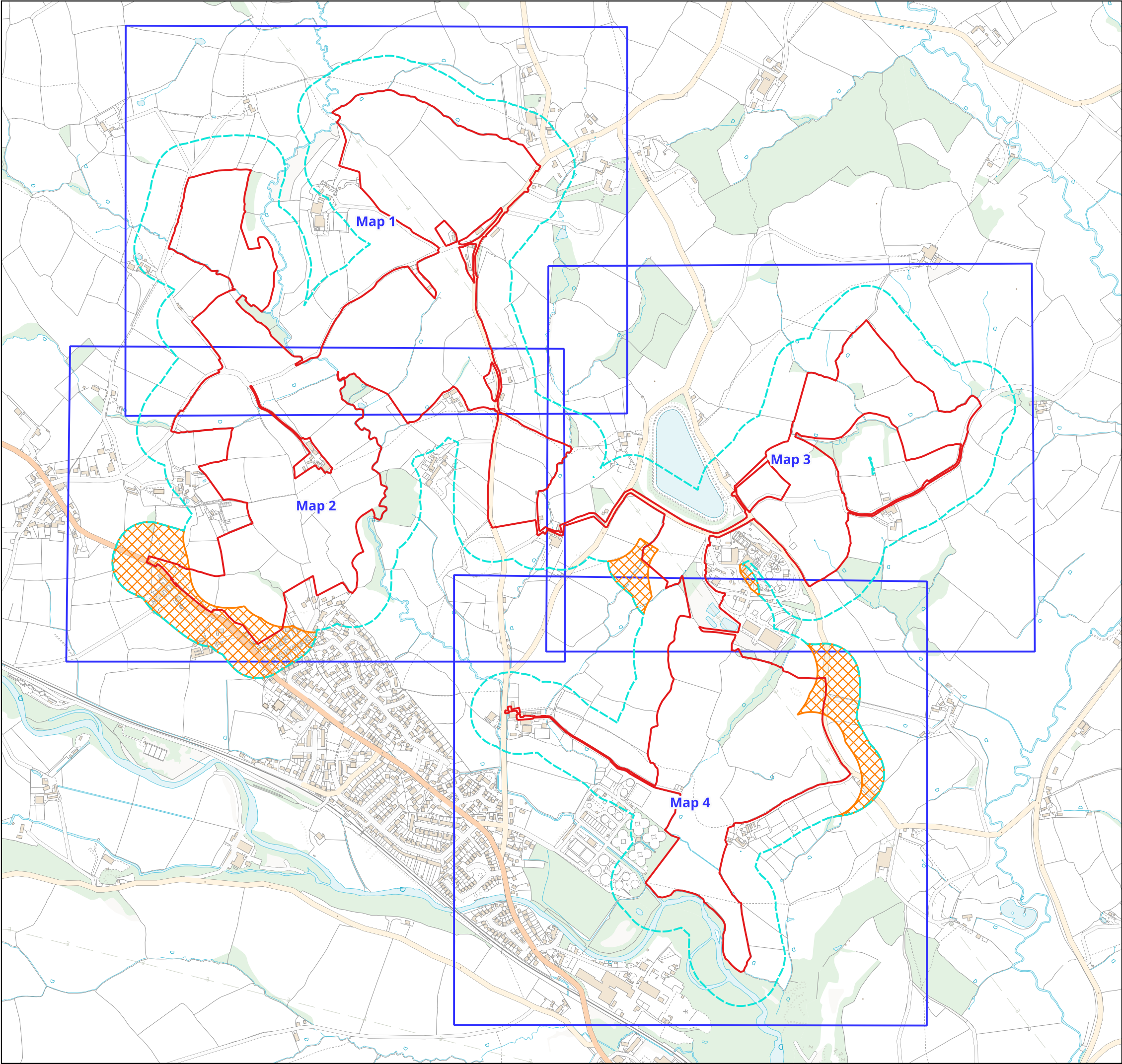
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Projection: Traverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Metres

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Figure 3: Non-statutory designated sites

Figure 4a – e: Breeding Bird Survey Results



- Site
- 100m Site Buffer
- Unsurveyed areas
- Map Page

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Breeding Bird Survey Results - Overview

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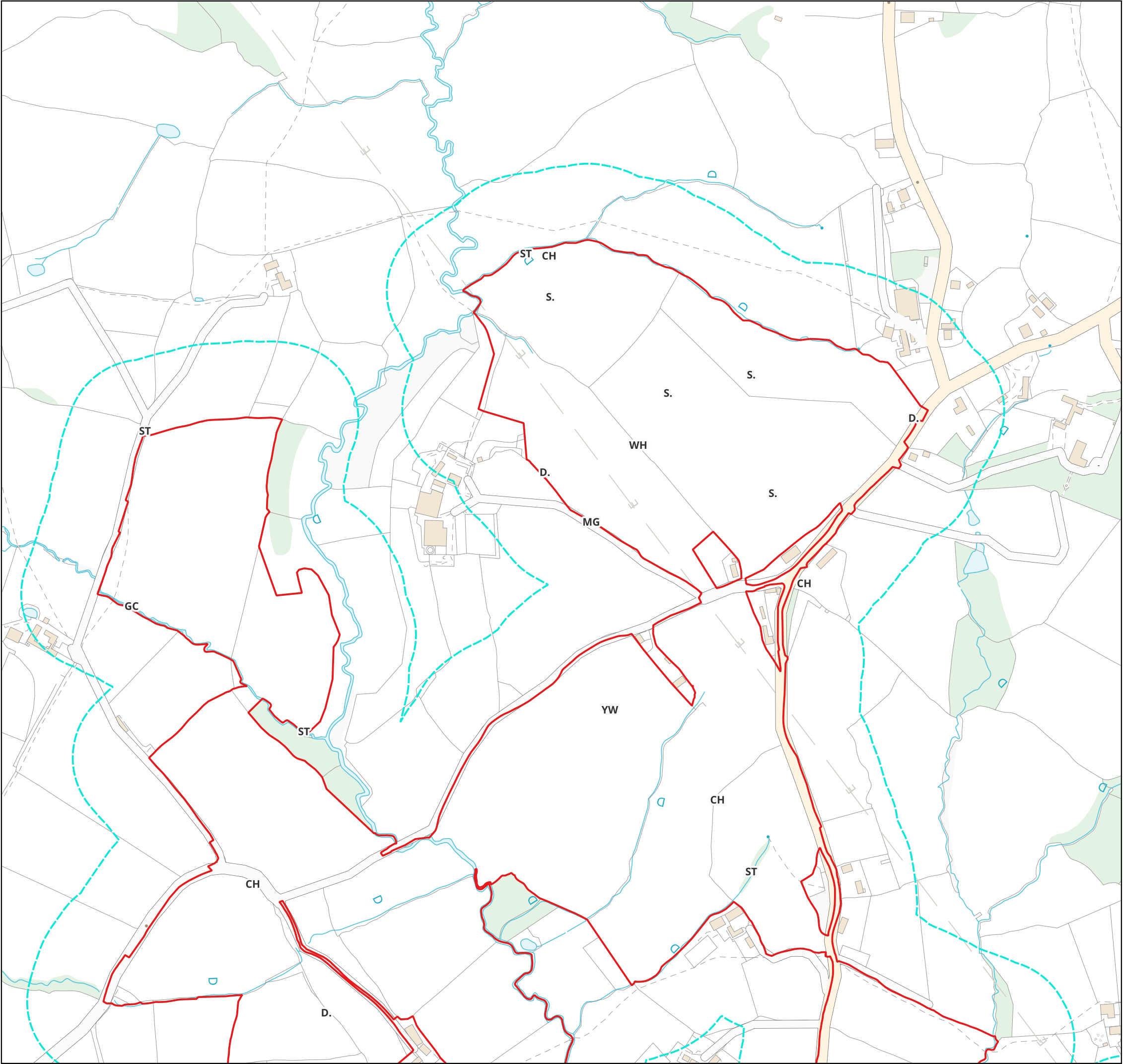


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- Site
- 100m Site Buffer
- Unsurveyed areas

Breeding Territory

- CH-Chaffinch
- D.-Dunnock
- G.-Green woodpecker
- GC-Goldcrest
- GR-Greenfinch
- HS-House Sparrow
- MG-Magpie
- S.-Skylark
- SF-Spotted Flycatcher
- ST-Song Thrush
- WH-Whitethroat
- WW-Willow Warbler
- YW-Yellow Wagtail



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Breeding Bird Survey Results - Map 1

Version: 01Date: 27/05/2026



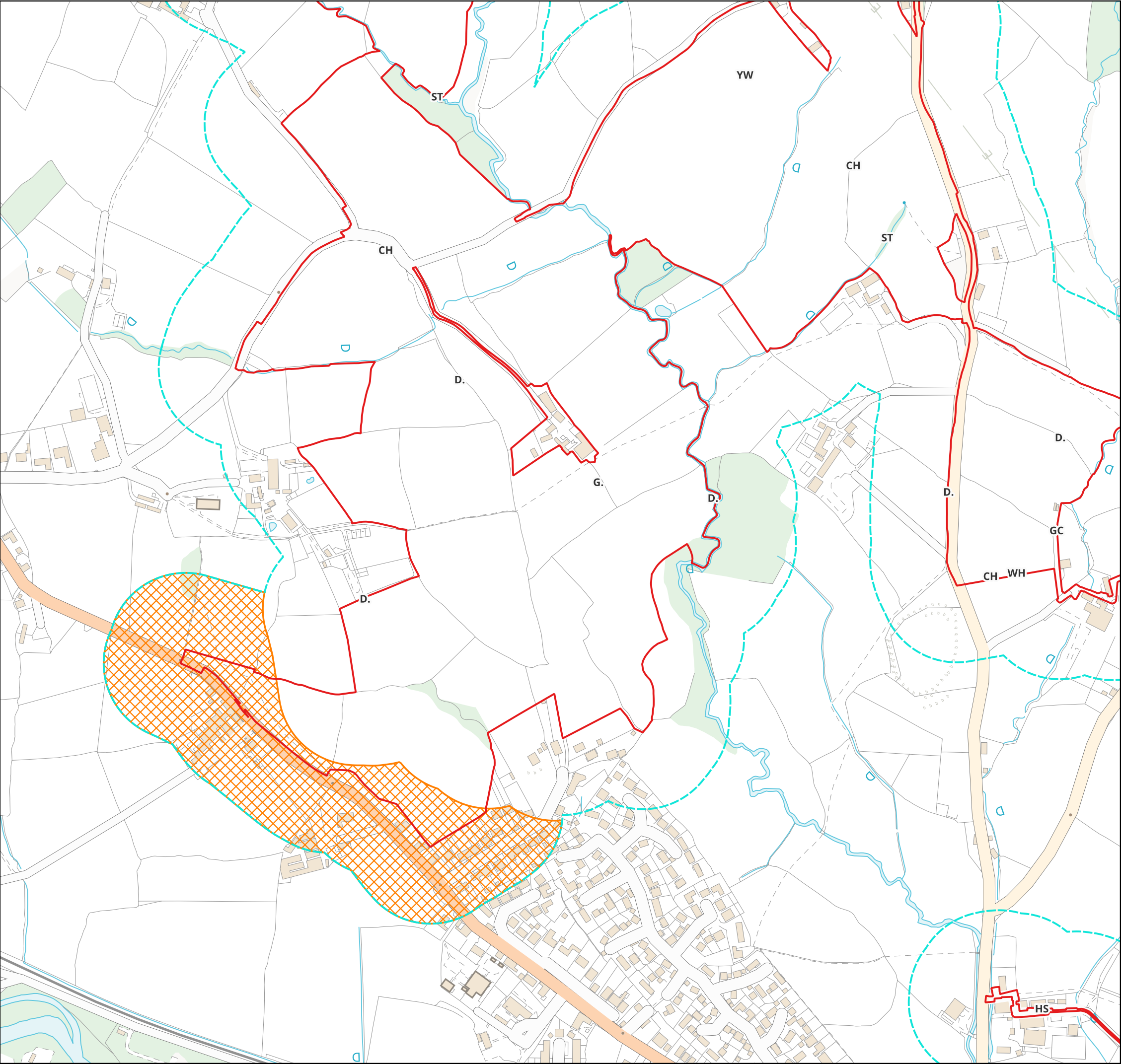
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Co-ordinate System : British National Grid
Projection: Traverse Mercator Datum: OSGB 1936 Units: Metres

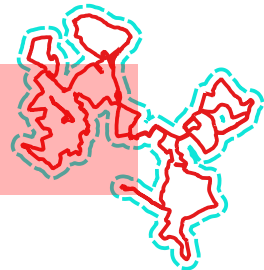
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- Site
- 100m Site Buffer
- Unsurveyed areas

Breeding Territory

- CH-Chaffinch
- D.-Dunnock
- G.-Green woodpecker
- GC-Goldcrest
- GR-Greenfinch
- HS-House Sparrow
- MG-Magpie
- S.-Skylark
- SF-Spotted Flycatcher
- ST-Song Thrush
- WH-Whitethroat
- WW-Willow Warbler
- YW-Yellow Wagtail



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Breeding Bird Survey Results - Map 2

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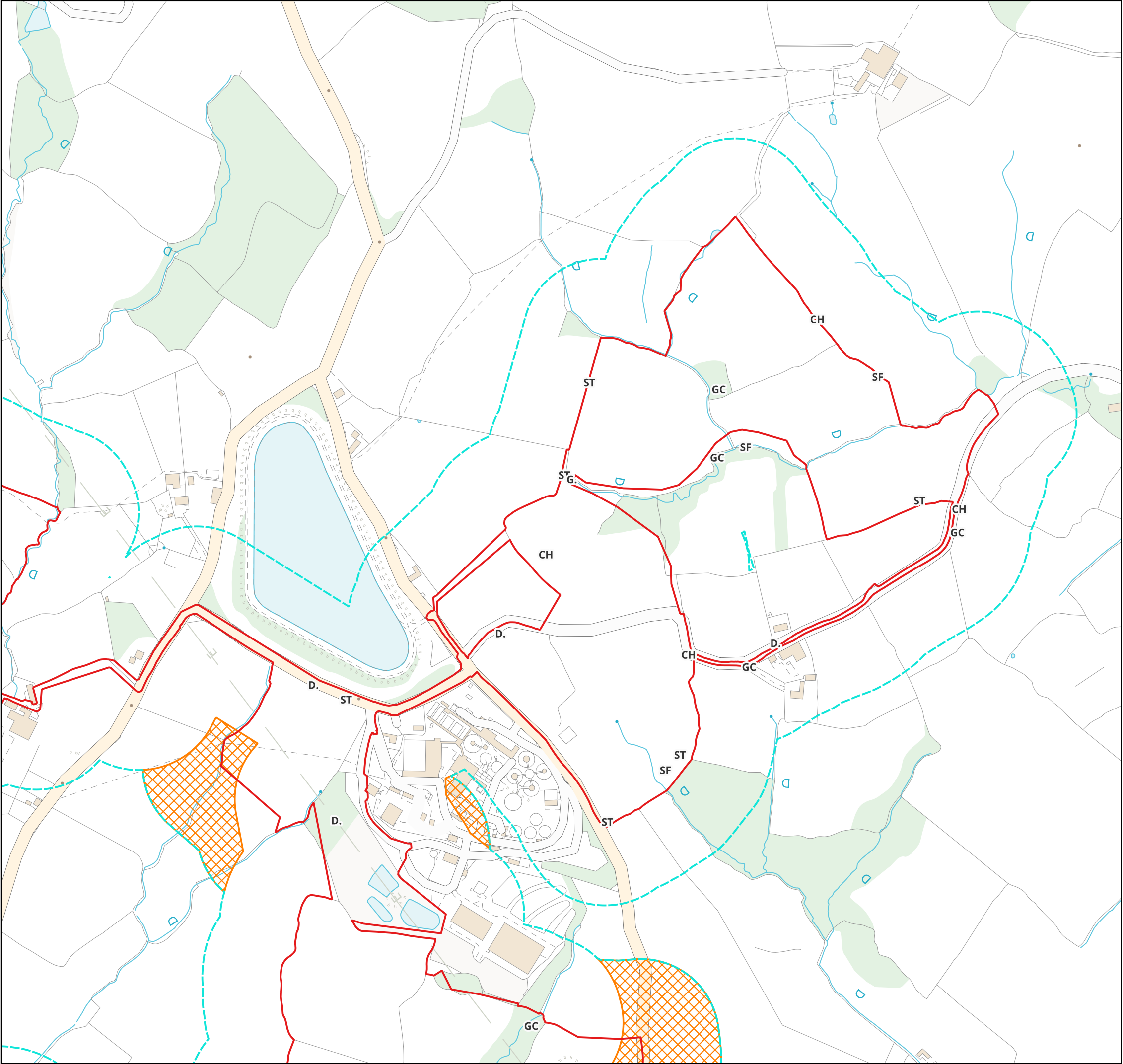
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- Site
- 100m Site Buffer
- Unsurveyed areas

Breeding Territory

- CH-Chaffinch
- D.-Dunnock
- G.-Green woodpecker
- GC-Goldcrest
- GR-Greenfinch
- HS-House Sparrow
- MG-Magpie
- S.-Skylark
- SF-Spotted Flycatcher
- ST-Song Thrush
- WH-Whitethroat
- WW-Willow Warbler
- YW-Yellow Wagtail



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Breeding Bird Survey Results - Map 3

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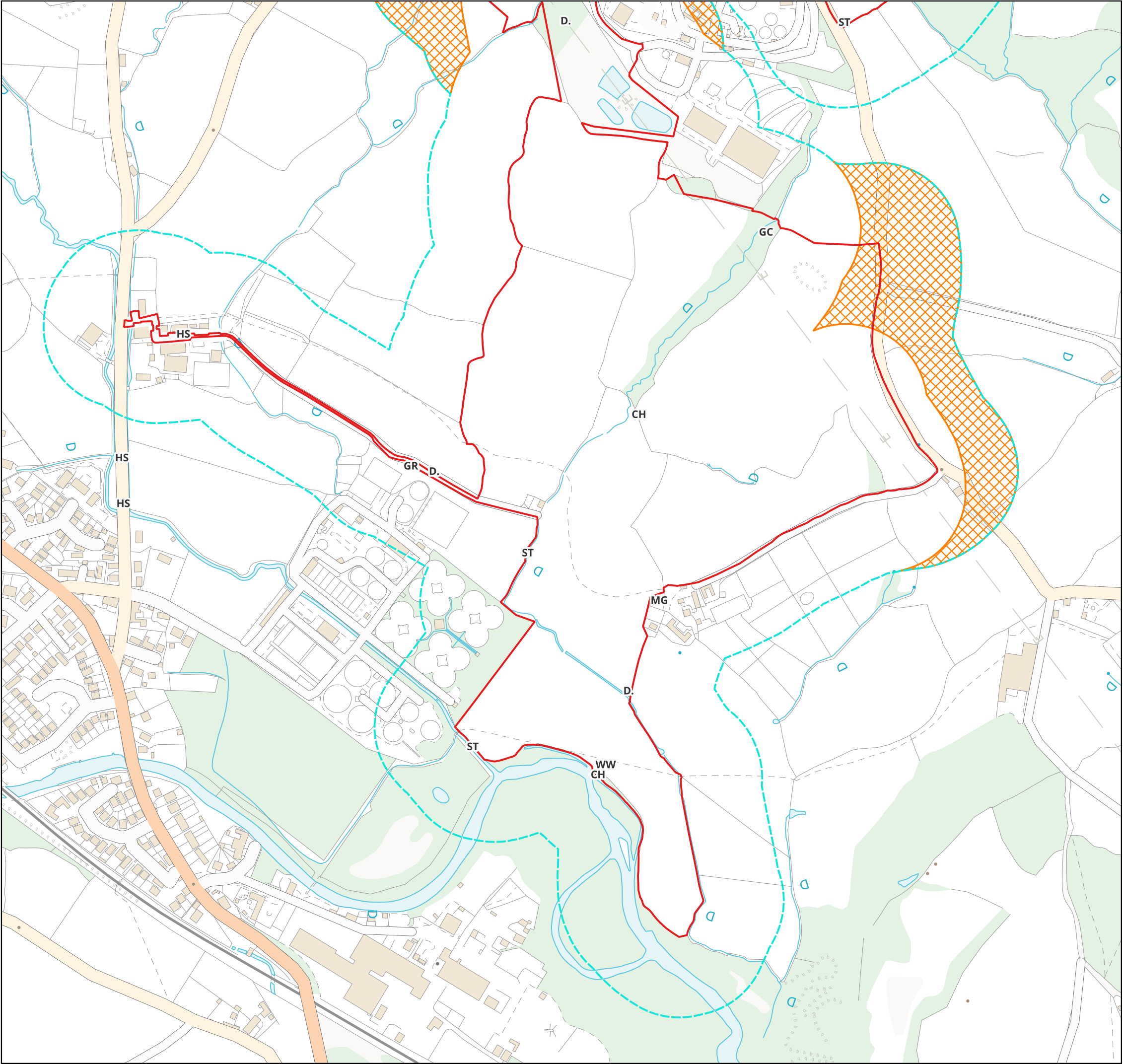


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Projection: Traverse Mercator Datum: OSGB 1936 Units: Metres



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- Site
- 100m Site Buffer
- Unsurveyed areas
- Breeding Territory
- CH-Chaffinch
- D.-Dunnock
- G.-Green woodpecker
- GC-Goldcrest
- GR-Greenfinch
- HS-House Sparrow
- MG-Magpie
- S.-Skylark
- SF-Spotted Flycatcher
- ST-Song Thrush
- WH-Whitethroat
- WW-Willow Warbler
- YW-Yellow Wagtail



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Breeding Bird Survey Results - Map 4

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Annex 1: Bird species summary

Table A1.1 provides a list of bird species included in the breeding bird survey report. Both common and species (Latin) names are presented along with a summary of each species conservation status using the following abbreviations:

- Sch1 – Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- Ann1 – European Birds Directive Annex I species;
- S7 - Section 7 (S7) priority species of the Environment Wales Act (2026 (updated));
- LNRAP - Monmouthshire Local Nature Recovery Action Plan listed species; and
- BoCC – Birds of Conservation Concern for Wales: Red, Amber and Green categories.

Table A1.1: Summary of bird species.

Common name	Species name	Conservation status
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Ann1
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Green
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Green
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	S7; LNRAP; Red
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Green
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Green
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Sch1; Ann1; Green
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	S7; LNRAP; Red
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	S7; Red
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Sch1; Green
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	S7; Amber
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	Sch1; Ann1; S7; Amber
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	S7; LNRAP; Red
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	S7; Red
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	S7; LNRAP; Red
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Green
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Sch1; Green
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Sch1; Ann1; Green
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	S7; LNRAP; Red
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Sch1; Ann1; S7; Amber
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Sch1; Ann1; S7; Amber
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Sch1; Ann1; Green
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Sch1; S7; Amber
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Green
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Green
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Sch1; Green
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Sch1; Ann1; Green
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	S7; Amber
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Green
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Green

Common name	Species name	Conservation status
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	S7; Amber
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	S7; LNRAP; Red
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	S7; LNRAP; Red
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	S7; LNRAP; Amber
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Green
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	S7; Amber
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	S7; Red
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	S7; Red
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	S7; Amber
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	Sch1
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Sch1; Green
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	S7; LNRAP; Red
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Green
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	S7; Red
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Sch1; S7; Amber
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Green
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	S7; Amber
Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	S7; Red
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	LNRAP; Green
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	S7; Amber
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	S7; LNRAP; Amber
Common crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Sch1; Green
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	S7; LNRAP; Amber
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	S7; LNRAP; Red
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	S7; LNRAP; Amber
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	S7; LNRAP; Red
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	S7; Amber
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>	Green
Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	S7; LNRAP; Amber
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	S7; LNRAP; Amber
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	S7; LNRAP; Amber

Common name	Species name	Conservation status
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	S7; Red
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	S7; LNRAP; Red
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	S7; Amber
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	LNRAP; Green

Annex 2: Breeding bird survey effort (2025)

Wind Speed (Beaufort)		Wind Direction	Rain	
Calm	0	16 point Compass	None	0
Light air	1		Light Showers	1
Light breeze	2	N	Heavy Showers	2
Gentle breeze	3	NE	Light rain	3
Mod. breeze	4	ENE	Heavy rain	4
Fresh breeze	5	E		
Strong breeze	6	Etc	Cloud Cover	
Mod. gale	7		In eighths e.g.	3/8

Visit	Date	Start Time	End time	Sunrise / Sunset	Wind Speed	Wind Direction	Rain	Cloud Cover
1	23/04/2025	05:09	11:00	05:59 / 20:23	3	NE	1	3
	24/04/2025	05:00	10:55	05:57 / 20:23	3	NE	0	7
2	28/05/2025	05:05	09:50	05:03 / 20:16	4	SW	1	8
	29/05/2025	05:05	10:20	05:02 / 21:18	6	WSW	2	8
	30/05/2025	05:05	09:30	05:02 / 21:18	3	SSW	0	8
3	02/06/2025	05:00	11:00	04:58 / 21:21	2	WSW	0	3
	03/06/2025	05:10	08:30	04:58 / 21:22	5	SSW	1	8
	04/06/2025	05:00	10:50	04:57 / 21:23	2	SSW	0	7
4	11/06/2025	04:45	09:50	04:54 / 21:29	2	ESE	0	0
	12/06/2025	04:45	08:20	04:53 / 21:30	3	E	3	8
	13/06/2025	04:45	09:55	04:53 / 21:30	4	S	0	5
5	02/07/2025	18:20	22:38	04:59 / 21:32	3	NW	0	0
	03/07/2025	18:25	22:35	04:59 / 21:32	2	WSW	0	0
	04/07/2025	18:20	22:35	05:00 / 21:31	4	SSW	0	5
6	15/07/2025	05:03	09:18	05:11 / 21:23	3	SW	2	8
	16/07/2025	05:08	10:07	05:13 / 21:22	2	WNW	0	4
	17/07/2025	05:20	10:05	05:14 / 21:21	3	SW	1	9

Annex 3: Avian Ecology (2023) Breeding Bird Survey Report

Court Farm Solar DNS
on behalf of Pegasus Planning Group
Breeding Bird Survey Report



Document Control				
Project Name:		Court Farm Solar DNS		
Project Number:		Pegas-075-5994		
Report Title:		Breeding Bird Survey Report		
Issue	Date	Notes	Prepared	Reviewed
V1	25/08/2023	Version 1 for client approval	Z Hinchcliffe <i>MRes BSc (Hons.)</i>	Dr C Bonnington <i>DPhil MSc BSc (Hons.)</i> <i>MCIEEM</i>

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1.1	Project Background.....	1
1.2	Site Overview.....	1
2	METHODOLOGY.....	1
3	RESULTS	2
3.1	Breeding Bird Survey.....	2
4	SUMMARY	4

FIGURES

Figure 1 – Breeding Bird Survey Survey Plan – Overview

Figure 2 – Breeding Bird Survey Results - 1

Figure 3 – Breeding Bird Survey Results - 2

Figure 4 – Breeding Bird Survey Results - 3

Figure 5 – Breeding Bird Survey Results - 4

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Bird Species Summary

Annex 2: Survey Effort

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 This report has been prepared by Avian Ecology Ltd. for Axis PED, and details the results of breeding bird surveys undertaken in relation to the proposed construction and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure ('the Proposed Development') on land north of Ponthir, Newport, Monmouthshire ('the Site'), as illustrated on **Figure 1**.
- 1.1.2 The objectives of this report are to:
- provide baseline information on breeding ornithological features within the Site; and,
 - identify the presence of notable breeding bird species within the Site.
- 1.1.3 Only common bird species names are referred to within the main text of this Appendix. A summary of all bird species referred to herein including scientific names and conservation status is presented in **Annex 1**.

1.2 Site Overview

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises 22 fields within ten separate parcels of land is located on land north of Ponthir, Newport, South Wales with the Site measuring 2.81km from the north west corner to the south east corner at central grid reference ST 33146 93875. Habitats within the Site consist of arable fields and sheep-grazed pasture bounded by a network of hedgerows, broad-leaved woodland and lines of mature trees. Within the wider surrounding landscape, habitats include further pastoral fields and pockets of woodland. The Afon Lwyd flows between the land parcels that comprise the Site, although the watercourse is not within Site itself.
- 1.2.2 No designated sites with qualifying breeding bird interest are present within 10km of the Site.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 A breeding bird survey was undertaken between April and June 2023, employing an adapted version of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Common Bird Census (CBC) technique (Gilbert *et al.*, 1998¹) and comprising a series of three staggered survey visits undertaken at least seven days apart.
- 2.1.2 Notable Species relevant to the Proposed Development include Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC Amber and Red List Species (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021²), Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act (2016)³, Annex 1⁴ raptors and owls, Schedule 1⁵ species and Newport Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)⁶ species.
- 2.1.3 All survey visits were carried out from dawn and typically finished by 11:30hrs and in conditions suitable for survey (avoiding heavy rain and strong winds). It was not possible to complete two of the

¹ Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D.W & Evans, J. (1998) *Bird monitoring methods. A manual of techniques for key UK species*. RSPB, Sandy

² Stanbury, A., Eaton, 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. Available online at <https://britishbirds.co.uk/content/status-our-bird-populations>. (Accessed 24/08/2023)

³ <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/environment-wales-act> (Accessed 25/08/2023)

⁴ Annex 1 – species listed on Annex 1 of the EC Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament on the conservation of wild birds.

⁵ Species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

⁶ <https://www.newport.gov.uk/documents/Leisure-and-Tourism/Countryside/Newport-Local-Biodiversity-Action-Plan.pdf>

surveys until 11:45hrs and 12:45hrs. A summary of survey effort is presented in **Table 2.1** and detailed survey conditions are presented in **Annex 2**.

- 2.1.4 The Survey Area comprised the Site, extended to include a 100m buffer from the Site boundary to record the presence of species listed under Schedule 1 (**Figures 2-5**).
- 2.1.5 Breeding bird survey visits were undertaken by S Shutt BSc (*Hons.*), a suitably experienced ornithologist.
- 2.1.6 During each survey visit all bird registrations were recorded on suitably scaled field maps using standard BTO species codes and behaviour notations (such as singing, carrying food, active nest). The approximate locations of bird territories within the Site were determined using standard territory mapping techniques to identify and isolate areas within which birds consistently displayed breeding behaviours (following Gilbert *et al.* 1998¹).
- 2.1.1 For the purposes of this report, although the estimated number of breeding territories for all species is provided only the breeding territories of Notable Species are mapped and presented on **Figures 2-5**, given these are the most relevant species to the design and assessment of the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.2 Observations of non-breeding birds just visiting the Site (e.g. gulls feeding in fields) and birds flying over the Site were also made.

Table 2.1: Breeding bird survey effort.

Survey Visit	Date	Start time (24hrs)	End time (24hrs)	Sunrise (24hrs)
1	20/04/2023	06:30	11:45	06:03
	25/04/2023	06:15	10:35	05:53
2	18/05/2023	06:50	12:45	05:13
	22/05/2023	06:00	11:15	05:07
3	15/06/2023	06:00	11:25	04:51
	22/06/2023	06:30	11:25	04:51

Limitations

- 2.1.3 The survey period was covered during appropriate months between April and June, however two of the six site visits were not completed until after 11:30hrs. These were completed by 11:45hrs and 12:45hrs. At the time of survey, weather conditions remained cool and territorial behaviour was noted with birds seen singing and carrying food on these visits. The later finishing times were therefore not considered a substantive limitation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Breeding Bird Survey

- 3.1.1 The breeding bird assemblage recorded within the Survey Area is representative of the locale and the arable habitats present with 22 breeding species recorded. A total of nine Notable Species were recorded breeding. No Schedule 1 species were recorded.
- 3.1.2 The Notable Species recorded within the Survey Area comprised three Red List species (skylark, linnet and greenfinch) and six Amber List species (woodpigeon, stock dove, wren, song thrush, willow warbler and dunnoek). Of these, four species are listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act (2016) (skylark, song thrush, dunnoek and linnet).

- 3.1.3 Four species listed as LBAP species were also recorded breeding within the Site (Skylark, song thrush, dunnock and linnet).
- 3.1.4 Within the Survey Area, breeding territories for most Notable Species were considered modest (≤ 4 territories), with the exception of wren with 24 breeding territories.
- 3.1.5 Breeding territories of Notable Species were typically associated with hedgerow and woodland edge along field boundaries, but ground-nesting species were associated with open pastoral farmland. Ground-nesting species comprised a single skylark territory.
- 3.1.6 All species considered breeding within the Survey Area along with an estimated number of the breeding territories are detailed in **Table 3.1**. Those species in **bold** are considered Notable Species. The indicative locations of the territories of Notable Species are provided in **Figures 2-5**.

Table 3.1: Breeding bird territories recorded within the Survey Area.

Species	Estimated Territories	Comments
Stock dove	1	Associated with pockets of woodland, within Figure 4.
Woodpigeon	1	Associated with mature hedgerow and trees, within Figure 3.
Carrion crow	1	Associated with mature trees, within Figure 4.
Blue tit	4	Associated with mature trees along field boundaries.
Great tit	3	Associated with mature trees along field boundaries.
Skylark	1	Associated with open pastoral farmland, within Figure 2.
Swallow	1	Associated with farm buildings, within Figure 4.
Long-tailed tit	1	Associated within field boundary vegetation, within Figure 4.
Willow warbler	1	Associated within field boundary vegetation, within Figure 4.
Chiffchaff	9	Associated with field boundary vegetation across the Site.
Blackcap	14	Associated with field boundary vegetation across the Site. Habitats include hedgerows and woodland edge.
Goldcrest	1	Associated with mature trees and woodland edge along field boundaries, within Figure 5.
Wren	24	Associated within field boundary vegetation across the Site.
Song Thrush	3	Associated within field boundary vegetation across the Site.
Blackbird	7	Associated within field boundary vegetation across the Site.
Robin	12	Associated within field boundary vegetation across the Site.
Dunnock	4	Associated within field boundary vegetation across the Site.
Pied wagtail	1	Associated with farm buildings, within Figure 4.
Chaffinch	3	Associated within field boundary vegetation across the Site.
Greenfinch	1	Associated within field boundary vegetation, within Figure 5.
Linnet	2	Associated within field boundary vegetation, within Figures 4 and 5.

- 3.1.7 During the surveys, several additional species that were not considered as breeding were recorded within the Survey Area, and which consisted of individual birds flying over the Survey Area only, or those considered only visiting the Survey Area to feed. Non-breeding species recorded within the Survey Area include herring gull, lesser black-backed gull, bullfinch, house sparrow and starling. None of these species were recorded exhibiting breeding behaviour.

4 SUMMARY

- 4.1.1 During survey, the Survey Area was found to support a breeding bird assemblage of nine Notable Species, typical of the locale and indicative of arable habitats present. These included: stock dove (one territory), woodpigeon (one territory), skylark (one territory), willow warbler (one territory), wren (24 territories), song thrush (three territories), dunnock (four territories), greenfinch (one territory) and linnet (two territories) for which breeding evidence was recorded within the Survey Area.
- 4.1.2 All species, except skylark were associated with the field boundary vegetation (such as hedgerows and woodland).
- 4.1.3 Skylark was the only ground nesting notable species recorded within the Site during the survey with one territory.

FIGURE 1. BREEDING BIRD SURVEY - OVERVIEW

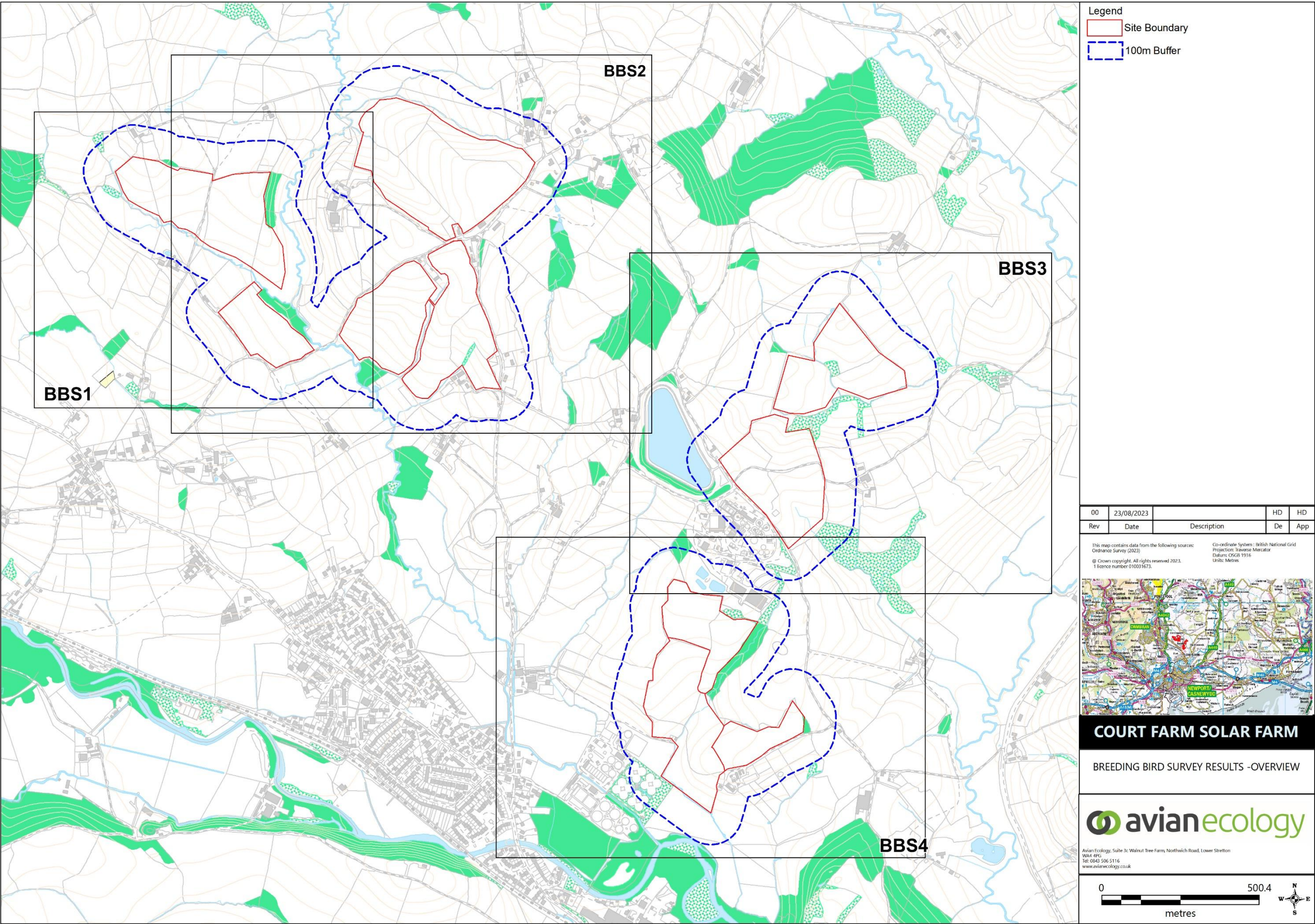


FIGURE 2. BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS - 1

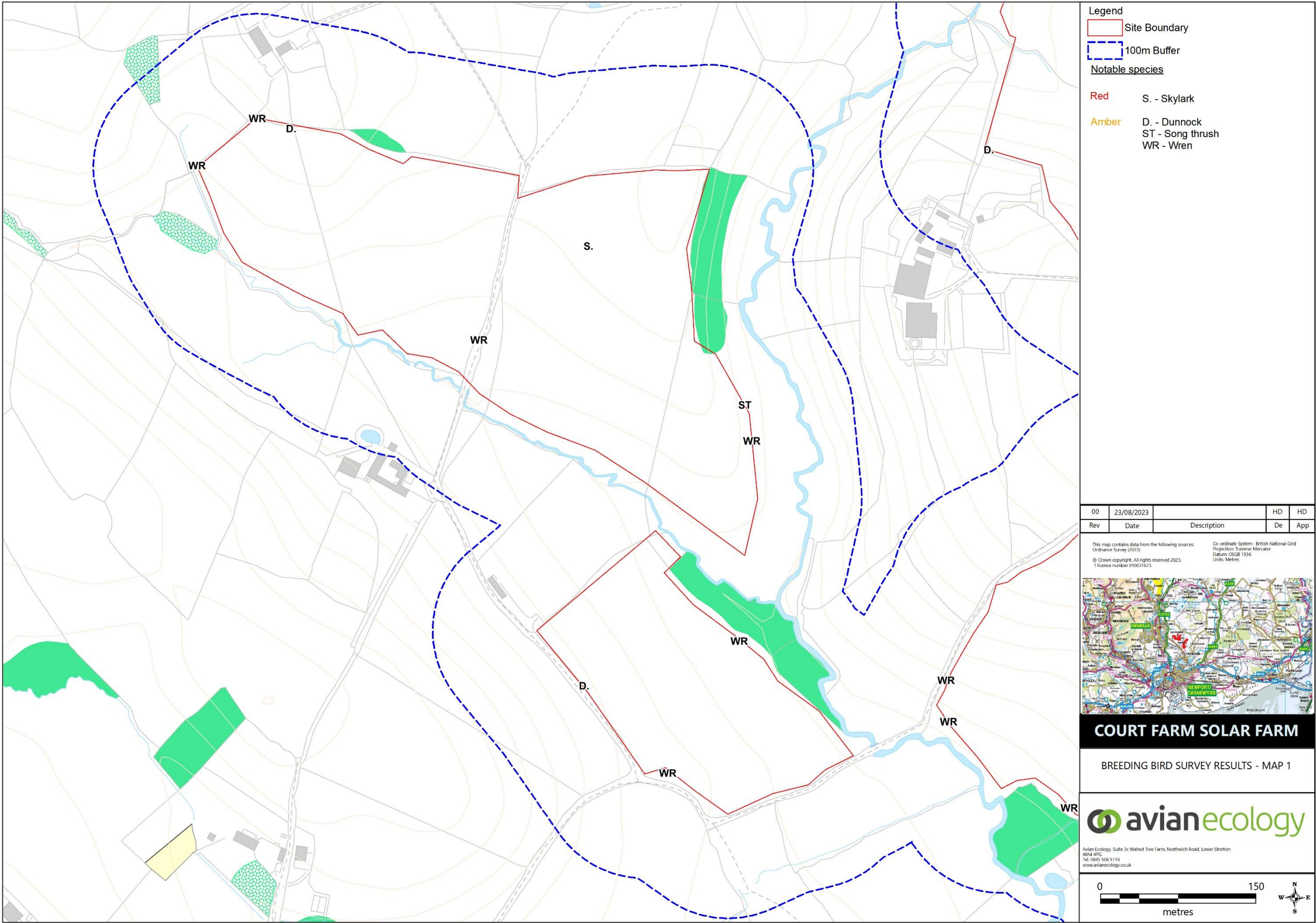


FIGURE 3. BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS – 2

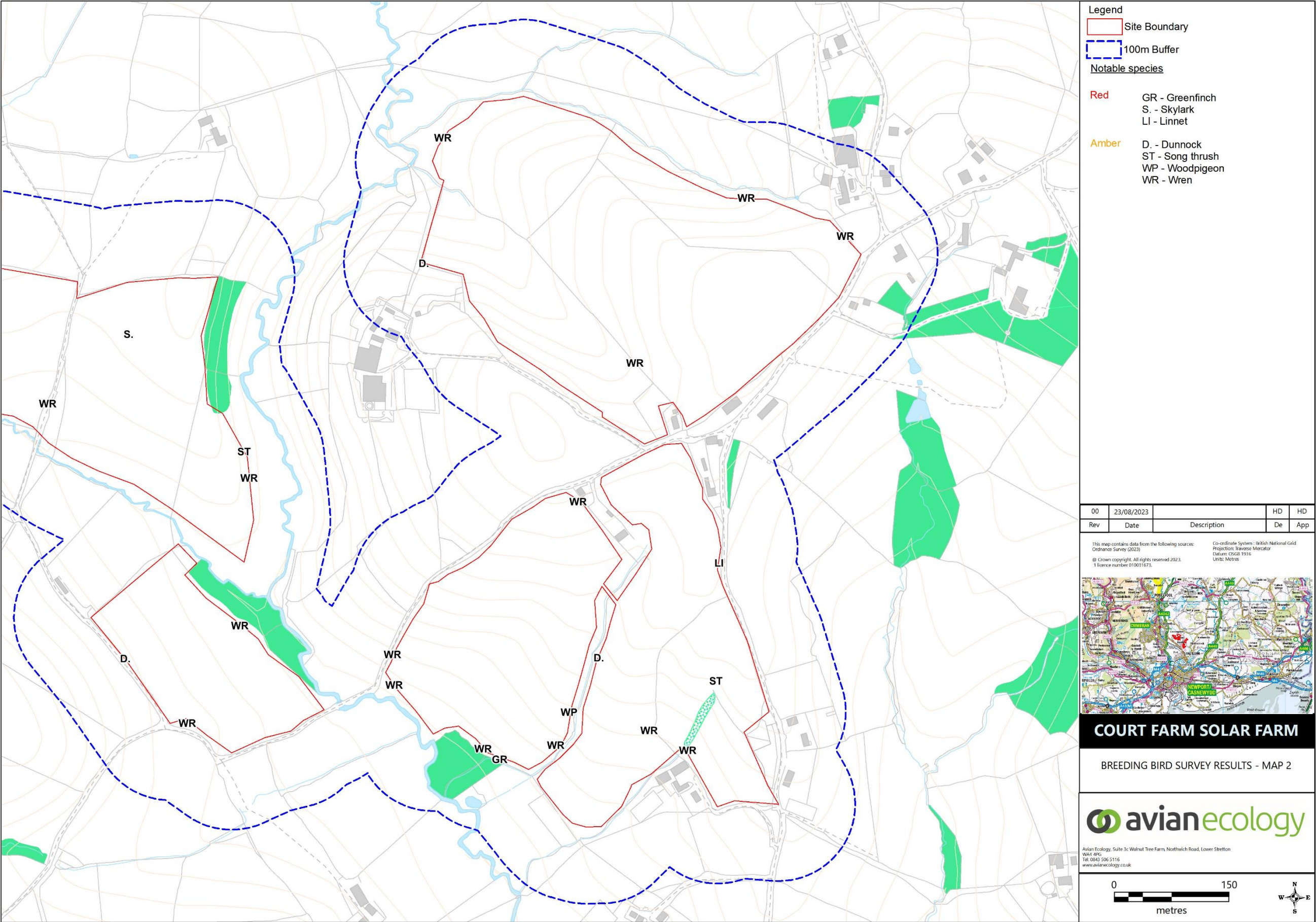


FIGURE 4. BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS - 3

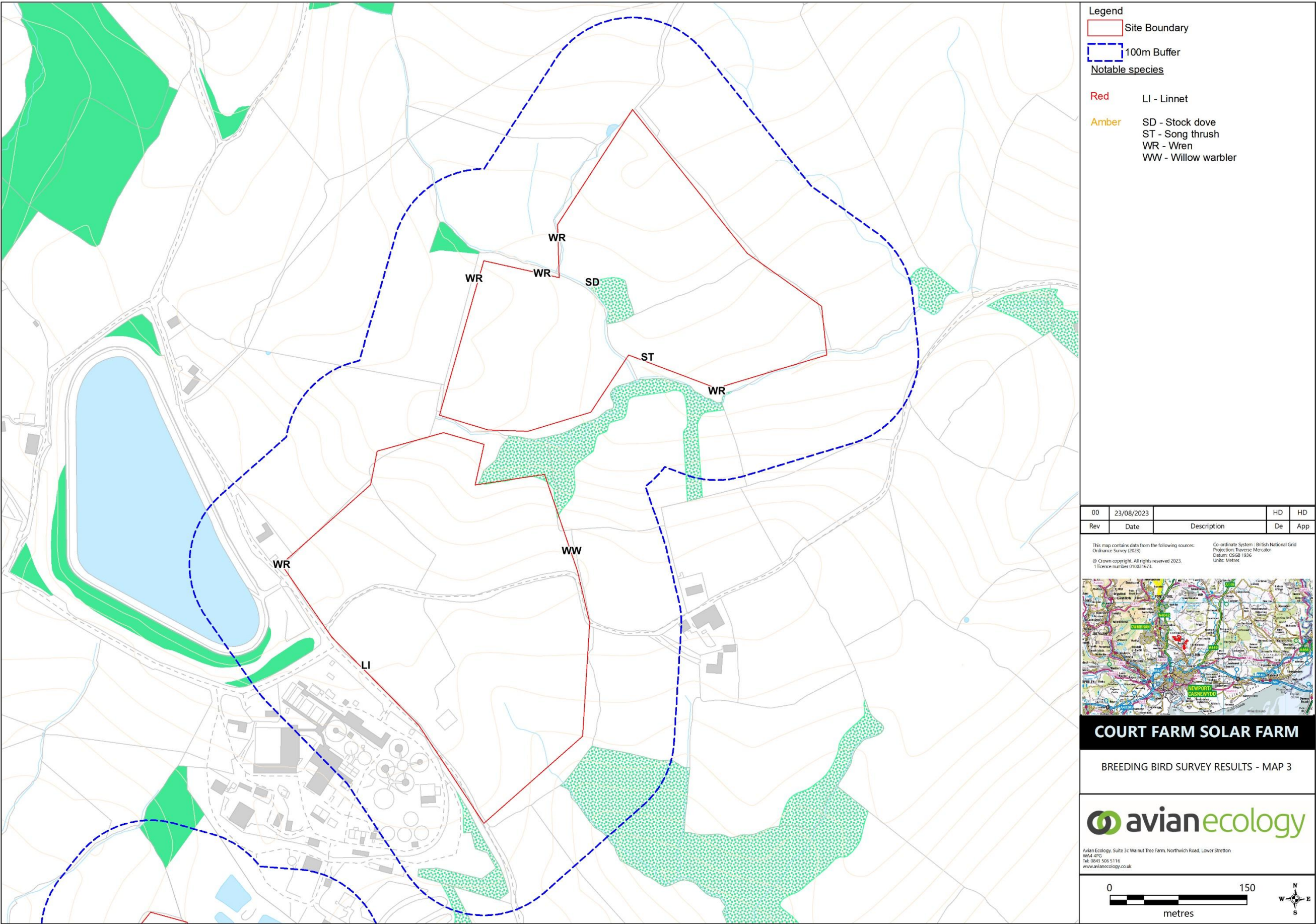
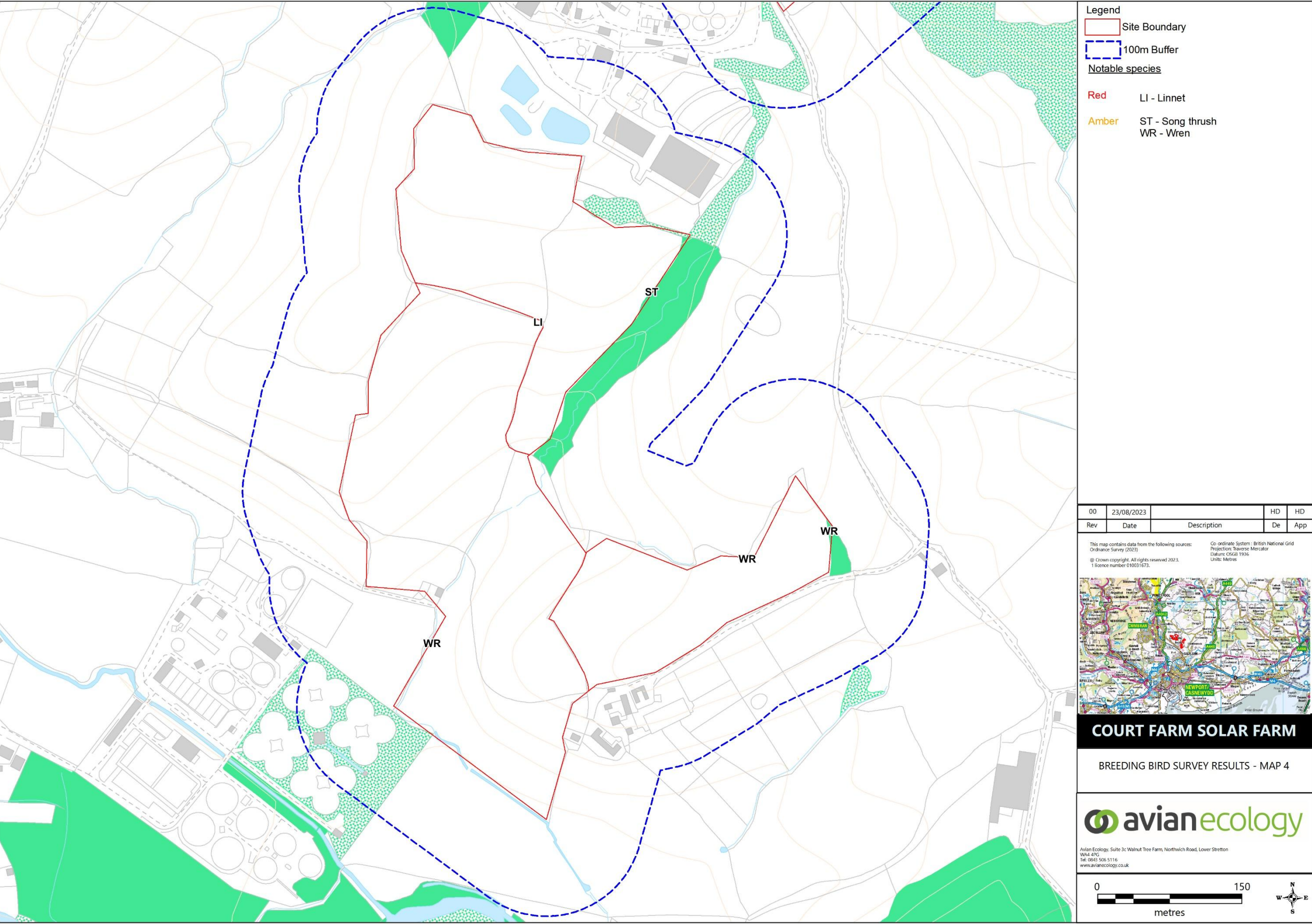


FIGURE 5. BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS – 4



ANNEX 1: BIRD SPECIES SUMMARY

Table A1 provides a list of bird species recorded during the breeding bird surveys. Both common and species names are presented along with a summary of each species conservation status using the following abbreviations:

- BoCC – Birds of Conservation Concern as listed by leading bird conservation organisations in the UK, including the RSPB and BTO. Red and Amber categories are given (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021);
- S7 – species listed as rare and most threatened on the NERC Act (2006); and,
- LBAP – Newport Local Biodiversity Action Plan species.

Table A1: Summary of bird species.

Common name	Species name	Conservation status
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	BoCC - Amber
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	BoCC - Amber
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	BoCC - Red; S7
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	BoCC - Amber
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	-
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	-
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	-
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	BoCC - Red; S7, LBAP
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	-
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	-
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	BoCC - Amber
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	-
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	-
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	-
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	BoCC - Amber
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	BoCC - Red; S7
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	BoCC - Amber; S7, LBAP
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	-
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	-
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BoCC - Red; S7
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	BoCC - Amber; S7, LBAP

Common name	Species name	Conservation status
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>	-
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	-
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	BoCC - Amber; S7, LBAP
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	BoCC – Red
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	BoCC - Red; S7, LBAP
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	-

ANNEX 2: BREEDING BIRD SURVEY EFFORT

Date	Start Time (24 hrs)	End time (24 hrs)	Wind Speed	Wind Direction	Rain	Cloud Height	Cloud Cover	Visibility	Frost	Snow	Temperature (°C)
20/04/2023	06:30	11:45	3	NE	0	2	1	2	0	0	10
25/04/2023	06:15	10:35	2	NE	0	2	2	2	0	0	5
18/05/2023	06:50	12:45	1-2	SW	0	2	4-6	2	0	0	10-17
22/05/2023	06:00	11:15	1	N	0	2	1	2	0	0	10
15/06/2023	06:00	11:25	2	NNE	0	2	4	2	0	0	15
22/06/2023	06:30	11:25	1	N	0	2	2	2	0	0	16

Wind Speed		W-Direction	Rain		Cloud Cover		Cloud Height	
Calm	0	Use 16 point Compass	None	0	In eighths e.g.	3/8	<150m	0
Light air	1		Light Showers	1			150-500m	1
Light breeze	2	N	Heavy Showers	2			>500m	2
Mod. breeze	4	NE	Light rain	3				
Fresh breeze	5	ENE	Heavy rain	4				
Strong breeze	6	E						
Mod. gale	7	Etc	Visibility		Snow		Frost	
Fresh gale	8		Poor	0	None	0	None	0
Strong gale	9		< 1km	1	On site	1	Ground	1
Whole gale	10		>1km	2	High ground	2	All day	2
Storm	11							