



ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT
VOLUME 2
APPENDIX 9.5 – BREEDING BIRD SURVEY
REPORT



Great Wolf Resorts

BICESTER GOLF COURSE

Breeding Bird Survey Report





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Breeding Bird Survey Report

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APPENDIX A

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is understood that Great Wolf Resorts (GWR) is planning the redevelopment of land to the north-west of the Bicester Golf Hotel and Spa off the A4095, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The redevelopment of land at Bicester Health Club is understood to include the creation of a 500 bed all-inclusive resort hotel, associated leisure facilities and the creation of an access road to be taken from A4095, hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'.

WSP was appointed to undertake breeding bird surveys to understand the ecological constraints pertaining to the Site in relation to birds and to accommodate ecological mitigation measures into the design stages, where feasible.

A 'Survey Area' was defined for the breeding bird survey comprising the golf course and associated buildings. The Survey Area is approximately 52Ha in area and located at grid reference SP551214. The survey work followed a standard method based on the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO's) Common Bird Census (CBC), as summarised by Bibby et al. (2000), to gain an understanding of the bird community within the Survey Area.

A total of 54 species were recorded within or over the Survey Area during the breeding bird survey, of these 40 are considered to breed within the Survey Area. A total of 10 species considered to breed within the Survey Area are species of conservation concern. This included species listed as Schedule 1 species of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Species of Principal Importance (SPI) in accordance with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and as either a red or amber list Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC).

The bird community within the Survey Area is considered of Local nature conservation importance, given it supports common and widespread species as well as some notable species.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) all wild birds are protected from killing and injury, and their nests and eggs protected from taking, damage and destruction whilst in use. Recommendations to avoid contravention of this legislation are included within Section 5. Further protection is provided to those species listed on Schedule 1 of the act, under which it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb at, on or near an 'active' nest. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) also requires planning applications to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment.

Section 5 of this report provides recommended avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures, as well as further enhancement measures, which should be considered during the design, construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development. This includes the replacement of suitable breeding habitat to achieve biodiversity net gain, the provision of alternative nesting opportunities and the provision of foraging opportunities.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. It is understood that Great Wolf Resorts (GWR) is planning the redevelopment of land to the north-west of the Bicester Golf Hotel and Spa off the A4095 ('the Site'), see Figure 1. WSP was appointed to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) to understand the ecological constraints pertaining to the Site and to accommodate ecological mitigation and enhancement measures into the early design stages, where feasible.
- 1.1.2. The Site is located within the boundary of the Bicester Golf Course, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 1TH, within the authority of Cherwell District Council (CDC). The Site comprises nine of the existing 18 hole golf course which forms part of the wider site also occupied by the Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa.
- 1.1.3. The redevelopment of land at Bicester Health Club is understood to include:
- § the creation of a 500 bed all-inclusive resort hotel, with an indoor pool and leisure complex, targeted at families and golf enthusiasts; and
 - § the creation of an access road to be taken from A4095, which runs along the northern boundary of the Site.
- 1.1.4. This scheme will hereafter be referred to as the 'Proposed Development'.

1.2. ECOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1. A 'Survey Area' was defined for the breeding bird survey, comprising the whole golf course and associated buildings, see Figure 1. The Survey Area is approximately 52ha in area and located at Grid Reference SP551214. The golf course was designed and built in 1973, having previously been arable land (Bicester Hotel 2017 & Google Earth Pro 2018). Habitats within the Survey Area are therefore considered to be approximately 40 years old, with the likely exception of the boundary features such as hedgerows. Habitats within the Survey Area are predominately woodland, grassland, hedgerow and scrub with intermittent ponds.
- 1.2.2. Land use surrounding the Survey Area is mixed with the village of Chesterton to the east, Bignell Park Farm to the north and predominately arable land to the west and south. The M40 runs along the west boundary of the Survey Area. Land to the east of the Survey Area is currently under development.
- 1.2.3. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) undertaken in February 2018 identified a variety of habitats within the golf course and along its boundary. These include amenity grassland, broadleaved semi-natural and plantation woodland, scattered trees, species-rich hedgerows, semi-improved grasslands, scattered scrub and numerous ponds. These habitats are suitable for foraging and nesting of common and widespread bird species and is also considered suitable for more notable species.
- 1.2.4. The desk study within the PEA included records of notable and protected bird species including kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, swift *Apus apus*, marsh tit *Poecile palustris*, corn bunting *Emberiza calandra* and Schedule 1 barn owl *Tyto alba* within 2km of the Survey Area. An incidental list of birds sighted during the Phase 1 habitat survey also included red kite *Milvus milvus*, bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, redwing *Turdus illiacus*, fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

1.3. BRIEF AND OBJECTIVES

1.3.1. To provide current baseline data regarding the bird community on the Survey Area WSP was commissioned to complete a breeding bird survey at the Survey Area to provide:

- § A list of bird species encountered and their breeding status (i.e. confirmed, probable or possible breeding, or not considered to be breeding on the Survey Area) and an estimate of the likely number of territories/colonies of bird species breeding on or close to the Survey Area.
- § An evaluation of the value of the Survey Area for breeding birds.
- § Recommendations as to how proposals should account for breeding birds in relation to legislation, planning and biodiversity policy.

2. METHODS

2.1. BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

- 2.1.1. To inform an evaluation of the on-site habitats for bird species, three breeding bird survey visits were completed between 22 May and 22 June 2018. The survey work followed a standard method based on the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO's) Common Bird Census (CBC), as summarised by Bibby et al. (2000).
- 2.1.2. All three survey visits to the Survey Area were completed in the early morning, commencing at dawn. Each of the dawn survey visits was of approximately 2.5 hours in duration.
- 2.1.3. During each survey visit the transects were walked slowly, approaching all suitable habitat within 50m and scanning and listening for birds. In accordance with good practice guidance (Bibby et al, 2000), the start point and direction of the transects walked were varied on each survey visit; this serves to minimise bias, as birds may be active at different times of day in different areas. The locations of birds seen and heard were mapped using standard BTO two letter codes and activity symbols. Where breeding activity was observed this was recorded in accordance with the following categories (based on standard BTO criteria):
- § Non-breeder – Birds observed flying over, considered to still be on migration or a summering non-breeder.
 - § Possible breeding – Birds observed singing or present in suitable habitat in breeding season.
 - § Probable breeding – A pair observed in suitable habitat, territorial behaviour observed in the same place on at least two separate occasions, or by many individuals simultaneously on one day, or birds observed visiting a probable nest site, showing courtship or display behaviour in suitable breeding habitat or nest building.
 - § Confirmed breeding – Nest containing eggs or young seen or heard, adults observed carrying faecal sac or food, feigning injury as a distraction display or entering or leaving a nest site in circumstances indicating an occupied nest, a used nest or eggshells found or recently fledged or downy young recorded (showing evidence of dependency on adults).
- 2.1.4. Field observations from all survey visits were combined to enable identification of clear clusters of records and to provide an indication of likely territory numbers.
- 2.1.5. In addition, incidental bird records gathered during other ecological surveys within the Survey Area have been incorporated within this report where these provide additional information to that gathered during the targeted breeding bird surveys. In particular these include common tern *Turnus hirundo* foraging over the ponds.

2.2. DATES OF SURVEY AND PERSONNEL

- 2.2.1. The breeding bird survey visits were completed by an associate member of CIEEM and competent surveyor with 3 years' experience of ecological survey, including breeding bird surveys.
- 2.2.2. Dates of survey and weather conditions are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Dates of survey and weather conditions

Survey Visit	Date	Duration	Weather conditions
1	22/05/18	2.5	Sunny and warm with low cloud cover (12-18C, 2/8 Oktas, Wind 1, Rain 0).
2	08/06/18	2.5	Cloudy and warm (15C, 5/8 Oktas, Wind 1, Rain 0).
3	22/06/18	2.5	Sunny and warm with moderate cloud cover (16-18C, 4/8 Oktas, Wind 1, Rain 0).

2.3. EVALUATION METHODS

- 2.3.1. The evaluation of the importance of the breeding bird community has been based on Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM 2018) guidance. This guidance recommends that valuation is made with reference to a geographical framework given the different communities of birds observed within the Survey Area, based on the data collected during survey.
- 2.3.2. The CIEEM criteria are based on Ratcliffe (1977), which was consulted to provide further detail as required. Specific criteria against which bird communities have been evaluated include:
- § Biodiversity, including species richness, range and populations of plant and animals communities;
 - § Rarity and typicalness of communities;
 - § Stage/stability of ecological succession and community development trajectory;
 - § Typicalness of the community;
 - § Position in an ecological or geographical unit; and
 - § Potential and intrinsic value, ease of re-creation.
- 2.3.3. Values were categorised in the following geographical context:
- § International – internationally important populations of birds, such as those protected under EU legislation and qualifying as SPA/Ramsar species.
 - § UK – bird populations that are important for conservation within the United Kingdom as a whole.
 - § National (i.e. England) – bird populations that are important for conservation within England. Examples could include species reliant upon heathlands, large woodlands/forests and moorland.
 - § Regional (i.e. Southern England) – bird populations that are important within a region of England.
 - § County (i.e. Oxfordshire)– bird populations that are important within a single county. Such populations are likely to be found in Survey Areas that are the most important bird conservation Survey Areas a county offers, but may be more numerous than Survey Areas of higher value and therefore are more replaceable than regional value Survey Areas.
 - § District/borough level (i.e. Cherwell) – more common and widespread bird populations that are important within a district. Such populations are likely to be found in Survey Areas that are more readily replaceable and fairly typical for the area in which they are found.

- § Local (i.e. Bicester/Chesterton) – common and widespread bird populations that are important within a local area. Such areas may stand out within a 10km grid square as being of importance to bird populations, but that are of less importance and more typical/ or replaceable than those in the above categories.
- § Within zone of influence only (the project Survey Area and its immediate surroundings) – the most widespread and common species/communities.

2.3.4. Therefore, to inform the assessment in this report, the results of the survey, the abundance of species at different geographical levels, the geographical range of the birds concerned and their conservation status have been taken into account.

2.4. NOTES AND LIMITATIONS

2.4.1. Given the nature of the Survey Area, there was minor disturbance throughout the surveys from the general public and from groundskeepers. As the surveys commenced from dawn, the level of disturbance was very low and limited to the end of the surveys. It is therefore not considered a limitation to the assessment of the bird community.

2.4.2. Whilst every effort has been made to detect all species present some bird species are more difficult to detect due to their shy or secretive nature and therefore may have gone undetected by this survey. This includes crepuscular species, such as owls. As a constraint applicable to all bird surveys this is not considered to place significant constraints upon interpretation of the results for this Survey Area.

2.4.3. A total of three breeding bird surveys were undertaken. The surveys were undertaken during May and June 2018. Whilst the beginning of the breeding bird season was not included within these surveys (March and April), it is considered that those species breeding would have been captured by the behaviours recorded within May and June. It is therefore not considered a limitation to the assessment of the bird community.

3. RESULTS AND EVALUATION

3.1. OVERVIEW

- 3.1.1. A total of 54 species were recorded within or over the Survey Area during the breeding bird survey, of these 40 are considered to breed within the Survey Area. A total of 10 species considered to breed within the Survey Area are species of conservation concern.
- 3.1.2. The numbers of birds recorded within each conservation category are listed below, it should be noted categories are not exclusive and a species can be listed in more than one conservation category (for example listed as both a Species of Principal Importance (SPI) in accordance with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and as either a red or amber list Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC)).
- § Three species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Red kite *Milvus milvus*, fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* and redwing *Turdus iliacus* were not considered to breed within the Survey Area, with the latter two species recorded incidentally during the Phase 1 habitat survey over winter.
 - § Eight species listed as SPI in accordance with Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 (also UKBAP species). House sparrow *Passer domesticus*, linnet *Linaria cannabina*, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* and starling *Sturnus vulgaris* were confirmed, probable or possible breeders within the Survey Area whilst herring gull *Larus argentatus* and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* were not considered to breed within the Survey Area.
 - § Nine Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) red list species. Mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*, song thrush, starling, house sparrow and linnet were confirmed, probable or possible breeders within the Survey Area whilst herring gull, lapwing, fieldfare and redwing were not considered to breed within the Survey Area.
 - § Ten BoCC amber list species. Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, dunnock, house martin *Delichon urbicum*, , mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and mute swan *Cygnus olor* were confirmed, probable or possible breeders within the Survey Area. Black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, common tern *Sterna hirundo*, swift *Apus apus* and stock dove *Columba oenas* were not considered to breed within the Survey Area.
- 3.1.3. The bird community within the Survey Area is considered of Local conservation value. The Survey Area supports numerous notable bird species, as well as more common and widespread species. The Survey Area however is not considered to support any bird species or populations at greater than local value.

3.2. BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

RESULTS OF BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

- 3.2.1. The species listed below have been recorded breeding, with their breeding status (confirmed, probable or possible) listed in Tables 3 and 4 in Appendix A. Table 3 and 4 also detail the recorded evidence for their breeding status. Records from all survey visits of species which are of conservation concern are mapped on Figure 2. Graph 1 below provides a total count for the species recorded during the surveys.

- 3.2.2. Species recorded on or over the Survey Area during the breeding bird survey but not considered to breed within the Survey Area are also discussed below and listed in Table 5 in Appendix A. This included birds flying over or foraging within the Survey Area, for which suitable breeding habitat is not present within the Survey Area, where no behaviour suggesting breeding was recorded and/or species were considered to be passage migrants.

Gull & Tern species

- 3.2.3. Two gull species were recorded flying over the Survey Area these being black headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* and herring gull *Larus argentatus*. Both species are not considered to be breeding within the Survey Area. Black-headed gull and common tern *Sterna hirundo* were observed foraging on the ponds during the breeding bird survey. All three of the species are listed as BoCC species with herring gull additionally listed as an SPI.

Raptor species

- 3.2.4. Schedule 1 listed species red kite *Milvus milvus* was recorded flying over the Survey Area, on one occasion. It is considered that red kite is not breeding within the Survey Area. The amber listed kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* was recorded foraging over the Survey Area on one visit to the south of the Survey Area. Given the lack of mature trees with suitable nesting cavities, kestrels are considered as non-breeders within the Survey Area. Buzzard *Buteo buteo* were also recorded in two survey visits and circling over the Survey Area. Buzzard are considered possible breeders within the Survey Area.

Waterbird species

- 3.2.5. Amber listed mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* was recorded within the Survey Area with ducklings on the two of the ponds indicating their breeding status. The BoCC amber listed mute swan *Cygnus olor* was also recorded nesting towards the north west of the Survey Area within the reed bed, later being recorded with cygnets. Coot *Fulica atra*, little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* and moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* were also recorded within ponds to the north of the Survey Area. All three species were observed with chicks, confirming their breeding status. A pair of grey heron *Ardea cinerea* were also recorded foraging around ponds in the north within the Survey Area, however this species is not considered to breed within the Survey Area. Cormorant were recorded flying over the Survey Area and are not considered breeding within the Survey Area.

Corvid species

- 3.2.6. Rook *Corvus frugilegus*, carrion crow *Corvus corone*, Eurasian jay *Garrulus glandarius* and magpie *Pica pica* were all recorded as possible breeders within the Survey Area. Rooks were recorded in large numbers (peak count of 50) during the first survey and infrequently during subsequent surveys.

Woodland and garden species

- 3.2.7. Numerous woodland and garden passerines were recorded within the Survey Area. These included the common and widespread wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, goldcrest *Regulus regulus*, great tit *Parus major*, long tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, coal tit *Periparus ater* goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, greenfinch *Chloris chloris* and chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. Given their recorded behaviours within the Survey Area they are all considered confirmed, probable or possible breeders (See Appendix A for full descriptions).

- 3.2.8. Numerous pied wagtail *Motacilla alba* were recorded foraging within the Survey Area on all survey visits. This species was often seen foraging on the golf course green and fairways and were observed with juveniles, confirming their breeding status.
- 3.2.9. Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* and garden warbler *Sylvia borin* were also recorded on numerous survey visits holding territories indicating that these migrants are probable breeders within the Survey Area, most notably within the hedgerow boundary to the north and east. One male reed warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, was observed singing within suitable nesting habitat.
- 3.2.10. Notable woodland and garden BoCC (amber and red listed) and SPI species recorded across the Survey Area include house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, dunnoek *Prunella modularis* (one record), bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus* and song thrush *Turdus philomelos*. Both starling and house sparrow were recorded nesting within the hotel in the centre of the Survey Area and were recorded throughout the survey visits foraging within grasslands, hedgerows and woodland. Given the recorded behaviours of these notable bird species within the Survey Area and presence within suitable habitat, all are considered confirmed, probable or possible breeders (See Appendix A for full descriptions).
- 3.2.11. Fieldfare and redwing were recorded foraging in the Survey Area during the Phase 1 survey undertaken in February 2018. Whilst these Schedule 1 species forage within the Survey Area over winter, these species are not considered to breed within it.

Farmland species

- 3.2.12. Linnet *Linaria cannabina*, BoCC red listed and an SPI is considered a probable breeder within the Survey Area given the territories and behaviours recorded, predominately east of the hotel.
- 3.2.13. A flock of lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* were recorded flying over the Survey Area during the Phase 1 habitat survey. Lapwing are not considered to be breeding within the Survey Area, however they may forage within the grasslands over the winter period.

Swallows, swifts and house martins

- 3.2.14. BoCC amber listed house martin *Delichon urbicum* were recorded nesting on the main hotel building and foraging across the Survey Area. During the first visit 18 nests were recorded within the hotel, however it is likely that some nests were not visible given the roof structure.
- 3.2.15. Barn swallow *Hirundo rustica* and the amber listed swift *Apus apus* were both recorded foraging over the Survey Area during multiple survey visits. Whilst they are not considered breeding within the Survey Area given a lack of suitable buildings, farm buildings and stables adjacent the Survey Area are likely to support these species.

Near passerines (pigeons and woodpeckers)

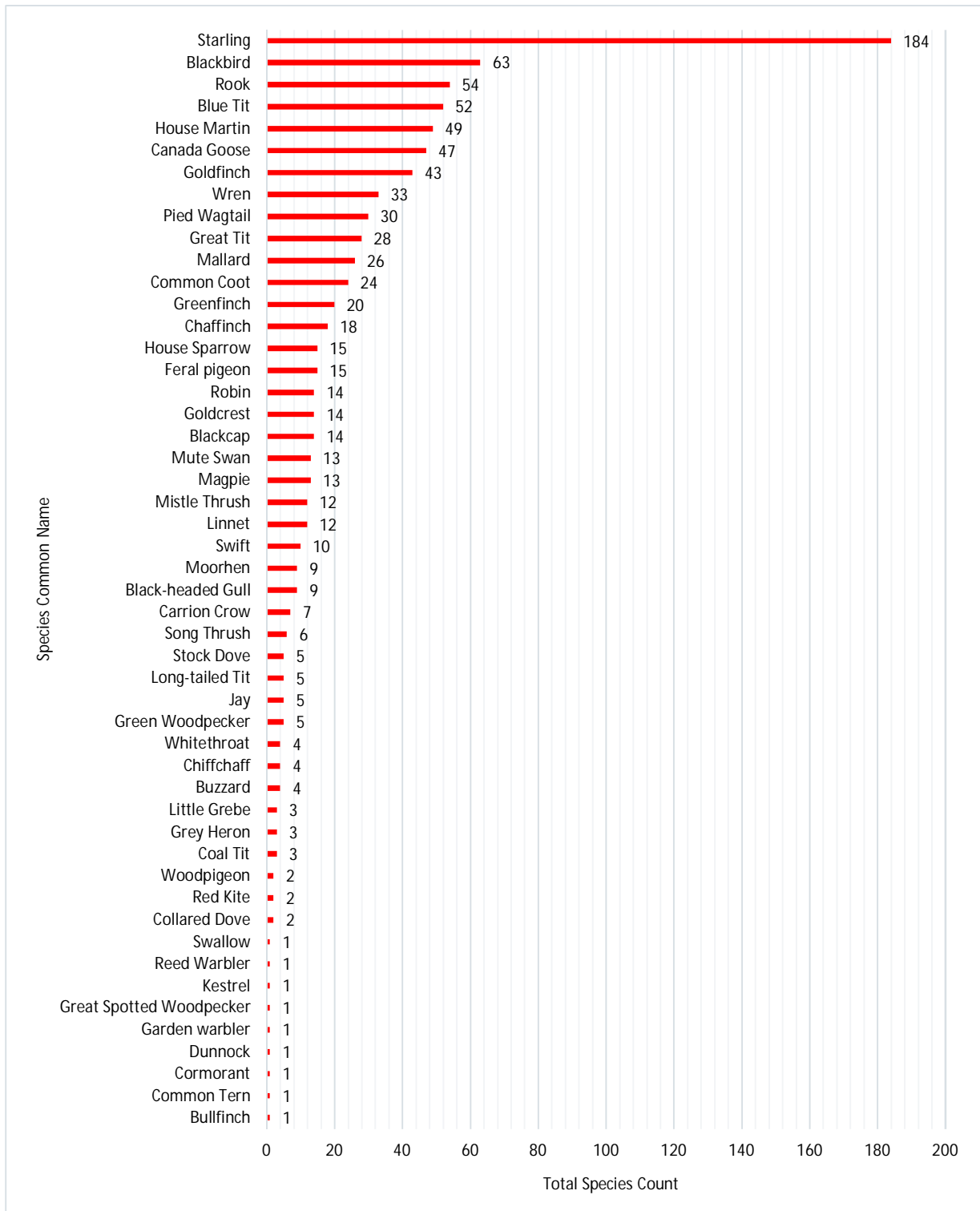
- 3.2.16. Wood pigeon *Columba palambus* and collard dove *Streptopelia decaocto* were recorded across the Survey Area, considered as probable/possible breeders within the Survey Area respectively. Stock dove *Columba oenas* (BoCC amber list) and was recorded flying over the Survey Area on multiple visits and is not considered breeding within the Survey Area. Feral pigeons *Columba livia domestica* were recorded flying over the Survey Area, and were not considered to breed within the Survey Area.

- 3.2.17. Great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* and green woodpecker *Picus viridis* were observed within the north of the Survey Area. A pair of green woodpecker were observed foraging within the amenity grasslands of the golf course. Both species are considered possible breeders within the Survey Area.

Introduced species

- 3.2.18. Canada goose *Branta canadensis* were recorded foraging around the ponds east of the main golf club house, with the largest group recorded totalling 11 individuals (including juveniles). Canada geese are listed as an invasive species on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Graph 1 - Total species counts across the surveys¹



¹ Redwing, fieldfare, lapwing and herring gull have not been included within this graph given they were recorded during the Phase 1 habitat survey.

EVALUATION OF THE SITE FOR BREEDING BIRDS

- 3.2.19. The bird communities have been evaluated using the criteria outlined in Section 2.3 in conjunction with the Biodiversity Action Plan for Oxfordshire. Table 2 gives the survey findings, conservation status and geographical importance of the breeding bird communities. In summary:
- § Most corvids, pigeons and game birds are considered of negligible ecological value. They are common and widespread in the UK, and in most cases, they are not threatened. The populations using the Survey Area are therefore considered to be of negligible conservation importance.
 - § Local value – gulls, garden birds, and most woodland species are considered to be of local conservation importance. The Survey Area does not host an important part of the breeding UK population, in general these species are widespread and common. In some cases, species are listed as conservation concerns because they have suffered rapid declines, but the population numbers still remain high including skylark, dunnock, starling, song thrush and mistle thrush. The populations of gull, garden and woodland species using the Survey Area are therefore considered to be of local conservation importance.
 - § District (Cherwell)/County (Oxfordshire) – the Survey Area does not support a bird community of district conservation importance.
 - § Regional – the Survey Area does not support a bird community of regional conservation importance.
 - § UK – the Survey Area does not support a bird community of national conservation importance.
 - § International – the Survey Area does not support a bird community of international conservation importance.
- 3.2.20. Overall, the surveys established the breeding bird community is comprised of a mixture of common, widespread and more vulnerable species present in moderate numbers, with some being listed as Birds of Conservation Concern and as SPI. The bird community within the Survey Area is considered to be of Local conservation importance.

Table 2 – Survey Results, Conservation Status and Geographical Importance of Notable Bird Species.

Common Name	Latin name	Conservation Status	UK Status	WSP Breeding Bird Survey Results 2018	Breeding Status ²	Geographical Importance ³
Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	SPI, BoCC Amber	<p>Widespread distribution in UK, where it is a resident, breeder and passage visitor.</p> <p>Species of conservation concern because even if it is abundant, wintering and breeding populations are declined precipitously and decreasing their range.</p>	Observed flying over and foraging within the Survey Area.	Non-breeding	Local

² Breeding status of the species within or immediately adjacent Survey Area in 2018.

³ Based on the breeding status listed in the Oxfordshire Ornithological Society bird list available here [<http://www.oos.org.uk/oxonlist.php>]

Common Name	Latin name	Conservation Status	UK Status	WSP Breeding Bird Survey Results 2018	Breeding Status ²	Geographical Importance ³
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	SPI, BoCC Amber	Year-round resident in UK. Widespread distribution in UK but declining.	<p>Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.</p> <p>Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area.</p>	Possible	District
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Annex 1 Birds Directive, BoCC Amber	Wintering and breeding in UK. Widespread distribution in UK along the coastline and in land. Species of conservation concern because even if it is abundant, wintering and breeding populations have declined historically and decreased their range.	Observed foraging within the ponds to the south east of the Survey Area.	Non-breeding	Local

Common Name	Latin name	Conservation Status	UK Status	WSP Breeding Bird Survey Results 2018	Breeding Status ²	Geographical Importance ³
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	SPI, BoCC Amber	Year-round resident in UK. Widespread distribution in UK. It has suffered steady declines in recent decades. Wintering and breeding populations are declined and decreasing their range.	Male observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.	Possible	Local
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	W&CA Schedule 1, BoCC Red	Winter migrant in the UK, breeding in Palearctic.	Observed foraging within the Survey Area during the wintering bird survey.	Non-breeding	Local
House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	BoCC Amber	Summer migrant, breeding across Europe and North Africa. Common and widespread, but numbers fluctuate locally. In Europe, population stable overall but some recent declines.	Colony observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. Approximately 18 nests recorded within the roof beams of the hotel and golf clubhouse.	Confirmed	Local

Common Name	Latin name	Conservation Status	UK Status	WSP Breeding Bird Survey Results 2018	Breeding Status ²	Geographical Importance ³
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	SPI, BoCC Red	Year-round resident in UK. Widespread distribution in UK. This species was once super abundant, but have declined precipitously and populations are now much lower than their previous highs.	<p>Colony observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.</p> <p>Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area.</p> <p>Nests recorded within the roof of the hotel and golf clubhouse.</p>	Confirmed	Local
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	BoCC Amber	Year-round resident in UK. Widespread distribution in UK. Species of conservation concern because populations are declining and decreasing their range.	Male observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.	Non-breeding	Local

Common Name	Latin name	Conservation Status	UK Status	WSP Breeding Bird Survey Results 2018	Breeding Status ²	Geographical Importance ³
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	SPI, BoCC Red	Year-round resident in UK. Widespread distribution in UK. Species of conservation concern because populations are rapidly declining and decreasing their range.	Observed flying over during the wintering bird survey.	Non-breeding	Zone of Influence
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	SPI, BoCC Red	Year-round resident in UK, which also hosts some breeding visitors. Widespread distribution in UK. Species of conservation concern because populations are dramatically declining and decreasing their range.	Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area.	Probable	Local

Common Name	Latin name	Conservation Status	UK Status	WSP Breeding Bird Survey Results 2018	Breeding Status ²	Geographical Importance ³
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	BoCC Amber	Year-round resident in UK. Widespread distribution in UK. Species of conservation concern because populations are declining and decreasing their range.	<p>Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.</p> <p>Young ducklings recorded within multiple ponds.</p>	Confirmed	Local
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	BoCC Red	Year-round resident in UK. Widespread distribution in UK. Species of conservation concern because populations are in decline.	<p>Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.</p> <p>Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area.</p>	Probable	Local

Common Name	Latin name	Conservation Status	UK Status	WSP Breeding Bird Survey Results 2018	Breeding Status ²	Geographical Importance ³
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	BoCC Amber	Year-round resident in UK, which also hosts some breeding visitors. Widespread distribution in UK. Species of conservation concern because breeding populations are declining and decreasing their range.	<p>Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.</p> <p>Nest and recent fledglings located within reed bed within the north of the Survey Area.</p>	Confirmed	Local
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	W&CA Schedule 1	<p>Year-round resident in UK, restricted distribution in UK. Species of conservation concern although with an increasing tendency.</p> <p>Abundant in the county of Oxfordshire since reintroduction in the 1990s.</p>	Observed flying over the Survey Area.	Non-breeding	Local
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	W&CA Schedule 1, BoCC Red	Winter migrant in the UK, breeding in Scandinavia/Iceland.	Observed foraging within the Survey Area during the wintering bird survey.	Non-breeding	Local

Common Name	Latin name	Conservation Status	UK Status	WSP Breeding Bird Survey Results 2018	Breeding Status ²	Geographical Importance ³
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	SPI, BoCC Red	Year-round resident in UK, which also hosts some breeding visitors in the north. Widespread distribution in UK. Species of conservation concern because breeding populations are declining and decreasing their range.	<p>Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.</p> <p>Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area.</p>	Probable	Local
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	SPI, BoCC Red	Year-round resident in UK. Widespread in UK. This species were once super abundant, but have declined precipitously and populations are now much lower than their previous highs.	<p>Colony observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.</p> <p>Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area.</p> <p>Nests recorded within the roof of the hotel and golf clubhouse.</p>	Confirmed	Local

Common Name	Latin name	Conservation Status	UK Status	WSP Breeding Bird Survey Results 2018	Breeding Status ²	Geographical Importance ³
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	BoCC Amber	Year-round resident in UK, . Widespread distribution in the south of the UK. Species of conservation concern given historical declines and slowly increasing populations.	Observed flying over the Survey Area.	Non-breeding	Zone of Influence
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	BoCC Amber	Summer migrant, breeding across Europe and North Africa. Common and widespread, but numbers fluctuate locally. In Europe, population stable overall but some recent declines.	Observed flying over the Survey Area.	Non-breeding	Zone of Influence

4. LEGAL AND PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

4.1. LEGISLATION

CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2017 (HABITAT REGULATIONS)

- 4.1.1. The Habitat Regulations Part 1 Regulation 10 (2) & (3) state that local authorities *‘must take such steps in the exercise of their functions as they consider appropriate to contribute to...the preservation, maintenance and re-establishment of a sufficient diversity and area of habitat for wild birds in the UK including by means of the upkeep, management and creation of such habitat...’*. The legislation continues to state that economic and recreation requirements must be taken into consideration in considering which measures are appropriate.

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)

- 4.1.2. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) all wild birds are protected from killing and injury, and their nests and eggs protected from taking, damage and destruction whilst in use; therefore, recommendations to avoid contravention of this legislation are included within Section 5.
- 4.1.3. Additional protection is extended to species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act, meaning it is also an offence to disturb these species at or near the nest, or whilst they have dependent young.
- 4.1.4. Of the species recorded within the Survey Area, three are listed on Schedule 1. No evidence of breeding was recorded, therefore, no further recommendations in relation to these species are considered applicable.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL COMMUNITIES ACT 2006

- 4.1.5. The NERC Act 2006 reinforces the duty upon all public authorities, including planning authorities, to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity when discharging their duties. The Act refines the definition of biodiversity conservation, stating that it includes restoring or enhancing a population or habitat. Section 41 of the NERC Act requires the Secretary of State to list habitats and species of principal importance (HPIs and SPIs) for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The habitats and species listed in accordance with Section 41 largely replicate those listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which occur in England (however there are exceptions). Eight SPI (also UKBAP species) were recorded within the Survey Area (see Appendix A). Of these six are considered to breed within the Survey Area; therefore, recommendations are included within Section 5 to encourage the conservation of these species as breeding species within the Survey Area, wherever possible, following completion of the Proposed Development.

4.2. PLANNING POLICY

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.2.1. At a national context planning policy is driven by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019). NPPF Section 15 *Conserving and enhancing the natural environment* states:

§ Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- *a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan) ...;*
- *b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of trees and woodland...; and*
- *d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.'*

§ To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- *'a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation...; and*
- *b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.'*

§ When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principle; *'if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused.'*

4.2.2. Although the NPPF revoked Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9), the ODPM circular 06/2005 originally prepared to accompany PPS9 remains current; this states that *'the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal'* and also includes confirmation that *'potential effects of a development, on habitats or species listed as priorities in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)...are capable of being a material consideration in the...making of planning decisions.'* The circular advises that local authorities should consult Natural England before granting planning permission if the proposals could adversely affect a protected species, this definition of a protected species includes birds.

LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

4.2.3. At a local level, Policy ESD10: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity and the Natural Environment (Cherwell Local Plan 2011) states:

4.2.4. *Protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment will be achieved by the following:*

- § *In considering proposals for development, a net gain in biodiversity will be sought by protecting, managing, enhancing and extending existing resources, and by creating new resources.*
- § *Development proposals will be expected to incorporate features to encourage biodiversity, and retain and where possible enhance existing features of nature conservation value within the site. Existing ecological networks should be identified and maintained to avoid habitat fragmentation, and ecological corridors should form an essential component of green infrastructure provision in association with new development to ensure habitat connectivity.*

- § *Relevant habitat and species surveys and associated reports will be required to accompany planning applications which may affect a site, habitat or species of known or potential ecological value.*
- § *Planning conditions/obligations will be used to secure net gains in biodiversity by helping to deliver Biodiversity Action Plan targets and/or meeting the aims of Conservation Target Areas. Developments for which these are the principal aims will be viewed favourably.*
- § *A monitoring and management plan will be required for biodiversity features on site to ensure their long-term suitable management.*

4.2.5. National and Local Planning policies are referenced as applicable within this report.

4.3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN RED AND AMBER LISTS

- 4.3.1. The UK's leading bird conservation organisations reviewed the most up to date information on the status of birds in the UK and elsewhere in their range to produce the third review of the status of birds which occur regularly in the UK. This is presented as the Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (Eaton *et al*, 2015), comprising a 'red list' of species of high conservation concern, an 'amber' list of species of moderate conservation concern, with other species that do not qualify under red or amber list criteria on the green list. To qualify on the red list species may be listed as globally threatened by IUCN, have suffered a historical decline without substantial recent recovery, or a decline of more than 50% in breeding or non-breeding populations, or a 50% contraction in breeding range over 25 years (or the longer term). Amber list species can be those listed as Species of European Conservation Concern, those which have suffered a historical decline but shown significant recent recovery, have shown a decline of between 25 and 50% in breeding or non-breeding populations, or a contraction in breeding range of between 25 and 50% over 25 years (or the longer term) or be rare or localised breeders in the UK, or be species for which 20% of the breeding or non-breeding population is found in the UK.
- 4.3.2. Red or amber listing does not confer additional protection under legislation or planning policy, however it provides a basis for informing evaluation of a Site and for targeting conservation effort and is a widely used resource for interpreting bird populations.
- 4.3.3. Recommendations are included as applicable within Section 5 to enable continued use of the Site by red and amber list species wherever possible following completion of the Proposed Development; with these species also used to target recommendations for potential enhancement measures where they may be of greatest value.

BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS

- 4.3.4. The United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), first published in 1994 and updated in 2007, is a government initiative designed to implement the requirements of the Convention of Biological Diversity to conserve and enhance species and habitats. The UKBAP contains a list of priority habitats and species of conservation concern in the UK, and outlines biodiversity initiatives designed to enhance their conservation status. The priority species generally correlate with those listed in accordance with Section 41 of the NERC Act (with some exceptions).
- 4.3.5. BAPs in the UK have no statutory status, but provide a framework for implementing conservation requirements. Furthermore, species listed as Priority species in the UK BAP which are also listed as



Species of Principal Importance (SPI) are afforded a degree of protection under the NERC Act (2006), which states that local authorities have a duty to conserve biodiversity (see above).

- 4.3.6. The national BAP is supplemented by local BAPs which identify habitats and species of particular value or concern at the local level. The Survey Area is covered by the Oxfordshire BAP. There are no specific Species Action Plans (SAPs) for birds within the BAP, with the county BAP taking the view that species conservation is assured through improvement to their habitat. Recommendations within this report give regard to the important Habitat Action Plans (HAPs), listed within the BAP, that are designed to aid bird conservation including the HAP for wetlands, hedgerows, neutral grassland and woodland.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1.1. Section 5.2 sets out measures which are recommended to avoid, mitigate and compensate for effects upon the breeding bird assemblage as a consequence of the Proposed Development. These measures aim to enable compliance with the legislation described within Section 4 above and to encourage completion of the Proposed Development in line with planning policy and other guidance wherever possible. Opportunities for enhancement in association with the Proposed Development have also been identified and targeted towards species listed as of conservation concern (Section 5.3).

5.2. AVOIDANCE, MITIGATION AND COMPENSATION

- 5.2.1. In the first instance, the Proposed Development should avoid the loss of suitable bird nesting and foraging habitat, including hedgerow, dense scrub, woodland and ponds where possible. Where this is not possible, careful consideration should be given to the design of the Proposed Development to ensure habitat loss is kept to a minimum.
- 5.2.2. Suitable nesting and foraging habitat lost to the Proposed Development should be replaced on at least a like for like basis in order to reduce the effects upon the breeding bird population, considered to be of Local value. Where possible, it is recommended that the Proposed Development aims to achieve biodiversity net gain, through replacement of habitat above and beyond like for like.
- 5.2.3. Habitat compensation should include the replacement of scrub and hedgerow habitats which serve as important habitats for notable bird species identified through the provision of forage and nesting opportunities. The loss of semi-natural broadleaved woodland should likewise be compensated for on a like for like basis. These compensation measures should be informed by the habitat enhancement measures outlined in Section 5.3.
- 5.2.4. These created habitats should be managed in accordance with a habitat management plan. Habitat management ensures the habitats continue to provide foraging and nesting opportunities for common and notable bird species recorded in the Survey Area.
- 5.2.5. It is recommended clearance of vegetation or demolition of buildings is avoided during the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) to avoid damage or destruction of bird nests. If partial clearance of small areas is unavoidable in this period a suitably qualified ecologist should be employed to inspect the area within 24hrs prior to clearance; should any nests be identified it will be necessary for a suitable sized buffer zone in which no works occur to be put in place around the nest until the young have fledged.

SCHEDULE 1 SPECIES

- 5.2.6. Red kite, redwing and fieldfare are all listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act meaning it is an offence to disturb these species at or near the nest, or whilst they have dependent young. Given redwing and fieldfare are winter migrants they are not considered to breed within the Survey Area.
- 5.2.7. Similarly, red kite were observed circling above and adjacent the Survey Area and are not considered to be breeding within it.
- 5.2.8. It is therefore considered Schedule 1 birds will not be negatively affected by the Proposed Development and no specific mitigation will be required for these species.

5.3. ENHANCEMENT

5.3.1. The Proposed Development offers an opportunity to enhance the Survey Area and provide nesting and foraging opportunities for species of conservation concern. It is recommended the following measures are considered during the design of the Proposed Development, in line with national and local planning policy:

- § New landscaping associated with the Proposed Development should comprise native species of local origin and include berry bearing shrubs. This is in order to provide food resources for thrushes and finches and cover for species such as dunnock (SPI, BoCC amber list, UKBAP) and compensate for the loss of woodland and scrub habitat where this is unavoidable to enable the Proposed Development. In addition, grassland areas should be included within landscaping, including within the Proposed Development itself, providing continued foraging provision for species such as song thrush (SPI, BoCC red list, UKBAP). Wherever possible new habitats should be designed as connective corridors, linking to other habitat areas, rather than in isolated parcels.
- § Provision of swallow cups or ledges within utility buildings and access gaps (e.g. over the doors) to enable birds to access these, these should be located towards the development perimeter and hence accessible from retained or newly created non-urban habitat wherever possible. Swallow are currently considered as a non-breeder within the Survey Area.
- § Inclusion of swift nest cavities within new buildings, these should be at least 5m above the ground beneath the eaves or under overhangs, with clear adjacent airspace for access and an absence of suitable nearby perches for predators, these should be located on the least sunny side of the building. Swift is an amber list BoCC currently considered as a non-breeder within the Survey Area.
- § Inclusion of house martin (BoCC amber list) nest provision on the exterior of buildings, these should be on the least sunny side and located on buildings on the development perimeter and hence accessible from retained or newly created non-urban habitat wherever possible.
- § Include starling (SPI, BoCC red list, UKBAP) cavities and house sparrow (SPI, BoCC red list, UKBAP) terraces within a proportion of new properties, to provide nest resource for these species. These should be sited as an integral part of the property wall in proximity to vegetated garden areas or areas of amenity space to provide foraging opportunities for these species.
- § Areas of riparian edge should be retained as well vegetated undisturbed areas for ducks (for example BoCC amber listed mallard) and other species which nest in the riparian margin, such as reed bunting (SPI, BoCC amber list). If bank reconstruction is required consideration should be given to soft engineering techniques such as coir matting or willow hurdles which enable gradually sloping vegetated slopes to form in the long term.
- § Aquatic vegetation within retained ponds could be enhanced to benefit invertebrate species, providing foraging opportunities for waterfowl. The aquatic plants used should be native and should include submerged, emergent and floating species for the benefit of multiple species. This could include water plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, water mint *Mentha aquatica*, water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides* and pond sedge *Carex riparia*.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1. A total of 54 species were recorded on or over the Survey Area during the breeding bird surveys, of these 41 are considered to breed on the Site. These include species which are legally protected or species of conservation concern. This total includes species where nest sites themselves are located on immediately adjacent land but the Survey Area is used extensively for provisioning of those nests or for song posts; and therefore these are included as breeding species as the Survey Area is integral to the breeding success of those birds.
- 6.1.2. The bird community is considered of Local conservation value.
- 6.1.3. To minimise effects upon the breeding bird community avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures have been recommended within Section 5. In addition, consideration has been given to opportunities to enhance the value of the Survey Area for some bird species, particularly species of conservation concern which are currently present on or over the Survey Area but do not breed within the Survey Area itself.

7. REFERENCES

7.1. PROJECT REFERENCES

- § WSP (2018a) GWR Bicester Golf Course - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
- § WSP (2018b) GWR Bicester Golf Course – Great Crested Newt Report
- § WSP (2018c) GWR Bicester Golf Course – Invertebrate Habitat Assessment and Hairstreak Butterfly Survey Report

7.2. TECHNICAL REFERENCES

- § Barn Owl Trust (2012) Barn Owl Conservation Handbook, Pelagic Publishing, Exeter.
- § Bibby C.J, Burgess N.D, Hill D.A, Mustoe S.H. (2000) Bird Census Techniques. Second Edition. Elsevier Ltd.
- § Bicester Hotel (2017). Available at <http://www.bicesterhotelgolfandspa.com/golf/>. Accessed 29/08/18.
- § CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester. Eaton MA, Brown AF, Noble DG, Musgrove AJ, Hearn R, Aebischer NJ, Gibbons DW, Evans A and Gregory RD (2009) Birds of Conservation Concern 3: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. British Birds 102, pp296–341.
- § Google Earth Pro (2018). Google Earth Pro version 7.3.1. Google Inc.
- § HMSO (Her Majesty's Stationary Office) (1981). Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000)
- § HMSO (2006) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.
- § HMSO (2017) Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- § The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019 (Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government, February 2019);
- § Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) (2005). Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Impacts within the Planning System.
- § The London Wildlife Trust (undated) Black Redstart: Advice for its conservation in London. Available: http://www.lbp.org.uk/downloads/Publications/Management/black_redstart_advice_note.pdf
- § Ratcliffe, D.A. (1977). A Nature Conservation Review. Cambridge University Press
- § The UK Biodiversity Action Plan; available online: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5155>

8. FIGURES

Figure 1 – Survey Area Location Plan

Figure 2 – Protected and Notable Species Activity Plan



Key

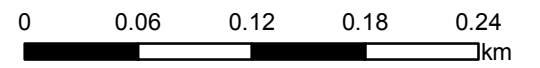
Survey Area

Transect Number

1

2

3



Client:	Great Wolf Resorts
Project:	Bicester Golf Course
Title:	Survey Area Location Plan

Drawing No:	Figure 1	Drawn:	BW
Date:	February 2019	Checked:	VD
Scale:	4,000 @ A3	Approved:	LR



Key

Survey Area

Transect Number

1
2
3

Species, Conservation Status, BTO Code

- Black-headed Gull, BoCC Amber, BH
- Bullfinch, SPI BoCC Red, BF
- Common Tern, BoCC Amber, CN
- Dunnock, SPI BoCC Red, D.
- Fieldfare, Schedule 1 BoCC Red, FF
- House Martin, BoCC Amber, HM
- House Sparrow, SPI BoCC Red, HS
- Kestrel, BoCC Amber, K.
- Linnet, BoCC Red, LI
- Mallard, BoCC Amber, MA
- Mistle Thrush, BoCC Red, M.
- Mute Swan, BoCC Amber, MS
- Red Kite, Schedule 1, KT
- Redwing, Schedule 1 BoCC Red, RE
- Song Thrush, BoCC Red, ST
- Starling, SPI BoCC Red, SG
- Stock Dove, BoCC Amber, SD
- Swift, BoCC Amber, SI

0 0.06 0.12 0.18 0.24 km



Client:	Great Wolf Resorts
Project:	Bicester Golf Course
Title:	Protected and Notable Species Activity Plan

Drawing No: Figure 2	Drawn: BW
Date: February 2019	Checked: VD
Scale: 4,000 @ A3	Approved: LR

Appendix A

wsp
BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS

Table 3 – Common and Widespread Species - Confirmed, Probable or Possible Breeders within the Survey Area

Species names			
Common name	Latin name	Breeding Status on the Site	Notes
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Probable	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Many individual permanent territories held by species across the Survey Area.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Probable	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Permanent territory held by species in the north of the Survey Area.
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Confirmed	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Many individual permanent territories held by species across the Survey Area. Recent fledglings with evidence of dependency on adults.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Possible	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat.
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Confirmed	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Up to seven goslings with an adult pair recorded east of the hotel.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Possible	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Probable	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Many individual permanent territories held by species across the Survey Area.



Species names			
Common name	Latin name	Breeding Status on the Site	Notes
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Probable	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Permanent territory held by species in the north of the Survey Area.
Coal tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Possible	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Permanent territory held by species in the east of the Survey Area.
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Possible	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat.
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Confirmed	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Nests and chicks recorded within multiple ponds across the Survey Area.
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Possible	Single male singing in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Confirmed	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Many individual permanent territories held by species across the Survey Area. Recent fledglings with evidence of dependency on adults.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Confirmed	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Many individual permanent territories held by species across the Survey Area. Recent fledglings with evidence of dependency on adults.

Species names			
Common name	Latin name	Breeding Status on the Site	Notes
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Possible	Species observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Confirmed	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Many individual permanent territories held by species across the Survey Area. Recent fledglings with evidence of dependency on adults.
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Possible	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season.
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Probable	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season. Many individual permanent territories held by species across the Survey Area.
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Possible	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season.
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Confirmed	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season. Nests and chicks recorded within ponds in the north of the Survey Area.
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Confirmed	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Many individual permanent territories held by species across the Survey Area. Nest with young heard and adults entering and leaving.

Species names			
Common name	Latin name	Breeding Status on the Site	Notes
			Recent fledglings with evidence of dependency on adults.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Possible	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season.
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Confirmed	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season. Nests and chicks recorded within multiple ponds across the Survey Area.
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Confirmed	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Recent fledglings with evidence of dependency on adults.
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Possible	Male observed singing in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Probable	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Many individual permanent territories held by species across the Survey Area.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Possible	Large number of rooks observed during the first survey in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season.
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Possible	Male observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.

Species names			
Common name	Latin name	Breeding Status on the Site	Notes
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Probable	Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Probable	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Many individual permanent territories held by species across the Survey Area.



Table 4 – Notable and Protected Species - Confirmed, Probable or Possible Breeders within the Survey Area

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act 2006	BoCC		BAP Species		
Common name	Latin name	Schedule 1	Section 41	Red list	Amber list	UK BAP	Breeding Status on the Site	Notes
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		ü		ü	ü	Probable	Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		ü		ü	ü	Possible	Male observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat.
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				ü		Confirmed	Colony observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. Approximately 18 nests recorded within the roof beams of the hotel and golf clubhouse.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		ü	ü		ü	Confirmed	Colony observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area. Nests recorded within the roof of the hotel and golf clubhouse.
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		ü	ü		ü	Probable	Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area.

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act 2006	BoCC	BAP Species			
Common name	Latin name	Schedule 1	Section 41	Red list	Amber list	UK BAP	Breeding Status on the Site	Notes
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				ü		Confirmed	Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. Young ducklings recorded within multiple ponds.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			ü			Probable	Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area.
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				ü		Confirmed	Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. Nest and recent fledglings located within reed bed within the north of the Survey Area.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		ü	ü		ü	Probable	Pair observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		ü	ü		ü	Confirmed	Colony observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. Permanent territory held by species across the Survey Area. Nests recorded within the roof of the hotel and golf clubhouse.



Table 5 - Non-breeding birds recorded within the Survey Area

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act 2006	BoCC		
Common name	Latin name	Schedule 1	Section 41	Red list	Amber list	Notes
Black- Headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>				ü	Species recorded flying over the Survey Area. Species recorded foraging within ponds to the east of the Survey Area.
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				ü	Species recorded flying over the Survey Area. Species recorded foraging within ponds to the south east of the Survey Area.
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					Species recorded flying over the Survey Area.
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>					Species recorded flying over the Survey Area.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	ü		ü		Species incidentally recorded in winter foraging on the Survey Area during Phase 1 habitat survey.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					Species recorded flying over the Survey Area.

Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act 2006	BoCC		
Common name	Latin name	Schedule 1	Section 41	Red list	Amber list	Notes
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		ü	ü		Species recorded flying over the Survey Area during Phase 1 habitat survey.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				ü	Male observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat. No suitable nesting opportunities within the Survey Area.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		ü	ü		Species incidentally recorded in winter flying over the Survey Area during Phase 1 habitat survey.
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	ü				Species recorded flying over the Survey Area.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	ü		ü		Species incidentally recorded in winter foraging on the Survey Area during Phase 1 habitat survey.
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				ü	Species recorded flying over the Survey Area.
Swallow	<i>Hirundinidae</i>					Species recorded flying over the Survey Area.



Species		WCA 1981	NERC Act 2006	BoCC		
Common name	Latin name	Schedule 1	Section 41	Red list	Amber list	Notes
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				ü	Species recorded flying over the Survey Area.



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