

Land North East of M42 Junction 10
(1005971)

Wintering Bird Survey Report

March 2021

Quality Management	
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Project:	Land North East of M42 Junction 10
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Aspect Ecology Ltd is acting on behalf of Hodgetts Estates in relation to ecological matters at the site, located north east of the M42, junction 10, centred at grid reference SK 248 009 (see Plan 5971/WBS1).
- 1.2 The site is proposed for development to provide a new access point off the A5 development of land within Use Class B2 (general industry), Use Class B8 (storage and distribution) and Use Class E (office, research and development and light industry), and ancillary infrastructure and associated works, development of overnight lorry parking facility and ancillary infrastructure and associated works, for which a hybrid planning application is being sought.
- 1.3 In line with the information set out elsewhere, including pre-application advice obtained from Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Ecological Services in order to ensure that the proposals are fully informed in regard to the specific nature and use of the site by bird species, specific wintering bird survey work has been undertaken at the site during the appropriate seasonal period in 2020/2021.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to set out the results of the specific survey work undertaken at the site in respect of wintering birds.

2 Survey Methodology

- 2.1 Specific survey work was undertaken at the site during 2020/2021 in order to assess the wintering bird activity at the site and adjacent survey area.
- 2.2 The survey area is composed of three large arable fields (of which the westernmost, along with a narrow section of the central field form the proposed development site).
- 2.3 Four surveys were carried out between November 2020 and February 2021. The dates of the surveys and the weather conditions on each visit are summarised in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1. Weather conditions during the breeding bird surveys undertaken at the site during 2020

Date	Start Time	Weather summary
22 nd November 2020	07.45	2/8 cloud, wind S0-1, 5°C.
12 th December 2020	14.30	5/8 cloud, wind SW2, 8°C.
10 th January 2021	07.20	8/8 cloud, wind W1, 0°C.
6 th February 2021	15.30	7/8 cloud, wind NE1, 6°C.

- 2.4 On each survey an experienced ornithologist walked a circuitous route around the site, recording the locations, numbers and activity of all bird species present within (and around) the survey area during this time. Each survey lasted approximately two hours, and either started around dawn or ended after dusk, in order to ensure that nocturnal species that may be using the site were recorded.

3 Survey Results and Discussion

- 3.1 The proposed development site itself is formed predominantly by a single large arable field with associated boundary habitats, including hedgerows, narrow strips of grassland, and a small number of trees, along with an area of hardstanding. In addition, for the purposes of the wintering bird survey work, the survey area included further land under the control of the applicant, in the form of two additional large arable fields located immediately east of the proposed development site.
- 3.2 A total of 35 species of birds was recorded across the survey area during the surveys.
- 3.3 For each species, the numbers recorded on each visit and a summary of observations are given in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1. Bird species recorded during the wintering bird surveys undertaken during 2020/2021

Species (and BTO species code)	RSPB listed	N	D	J	F	Notes
Red-legged partridge (RL) <i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Feral	6	-	6	5	In open fields.
Feral pigeon (FP) <i>Columba livia</i>	Feral	15	-	-	-	A single flock in the west.
Woodpigeon (WP) <i>C. palumbus</i>		20	3	3	10	In peripheral vegetation.
Collared dove (CD) <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		-	-	1	-	Associated with adjacent housing.
Sparrowhawk (SH) <i>Accipiter nisus</i>		-	1	-	-	On the eastern boundary.
Buzzard (BZ) <i>Buteo buteo</i>		3	2	1	1	In open fields.
Black-headed gull (BH) <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber	4	-	31	-	In open fields.
Lesser black-backed gull (LB) <i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber	-	-	53	-	Flying over.
Herring gull (HG) <i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red	-	-	14	-	Flying over.
Golden plover (GP) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		-	1	200	220	Present in the west and central fields.
Kestrel (K.) <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber	2	2	1	2	In open fields.
Peregrine (PE) <i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1	-	-	-	An incidental visit.
Magpie (MG) <i>Pica pica</i>		10	20	5	30	Relatively large numbers in the west field.
Jackdaw (JD) <i>Corvus monedula</i>		-	-	1	-	Associated with adjacent housing.
Carrion crow (C.) <i>Corvus corone</i>		7	2	3	5	In open fields.
Blue tit (BT) <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		6	3	2	2	In peripheral vegetation.
Great tit (GT) <i>Parus major</i>		4	2	-	2	In peripheral vegetation.
Skylark (S.) <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red	12	3	1	15	In open fields.
Long-tailed tit (LT) <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		-	-	8	2	In peripheral vegetation.
Wren (WR) <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		6	3	3	2	In peripheral vegetation.
Starling (SG) <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	50	-	1	3	Mostly flying over.
Blackbird (B.) <i>Turdus merula</i>		20	7	6	7	In peripheral vegetation.
Song thrush (ST) <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Red	1	4	4	1	In peripheral vegetation.
Fieldfare (FF) <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red	7	1	-	-	In peripheral vegetation.
Mistle thrush (M.) <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red	4	-	3	3	In open fields.
Robin (R.) <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		5	1	3	7	In peripheral vegetation.
Stonechat (SC) <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		2	-	1	-	Along the grassy footpaths.
Dunnock (D.) <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber	9	8	3	4	In peripheral vegetation.
House sparrow (HS) <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red	5	20	5	10	Associated with adjacent housing.
Pied wagtail (PW) <i>Motacilla alba</i>		1	1	4	1	In open fields.
Meadow pipit (MP) <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	2	-	5	-	In open fields.
Chaffinch (CH) <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		-	1	-	-	In peripheral vegetation.
Greenfinch (GR) <i>Chloris chloris</i>		2	-	-	1	In peripheral vegetation.
Linnet (LI) <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red	-	5	100	22	In open fields.
Goldfinch (GO) <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		1	3	4	-	In peripheral vegetation.

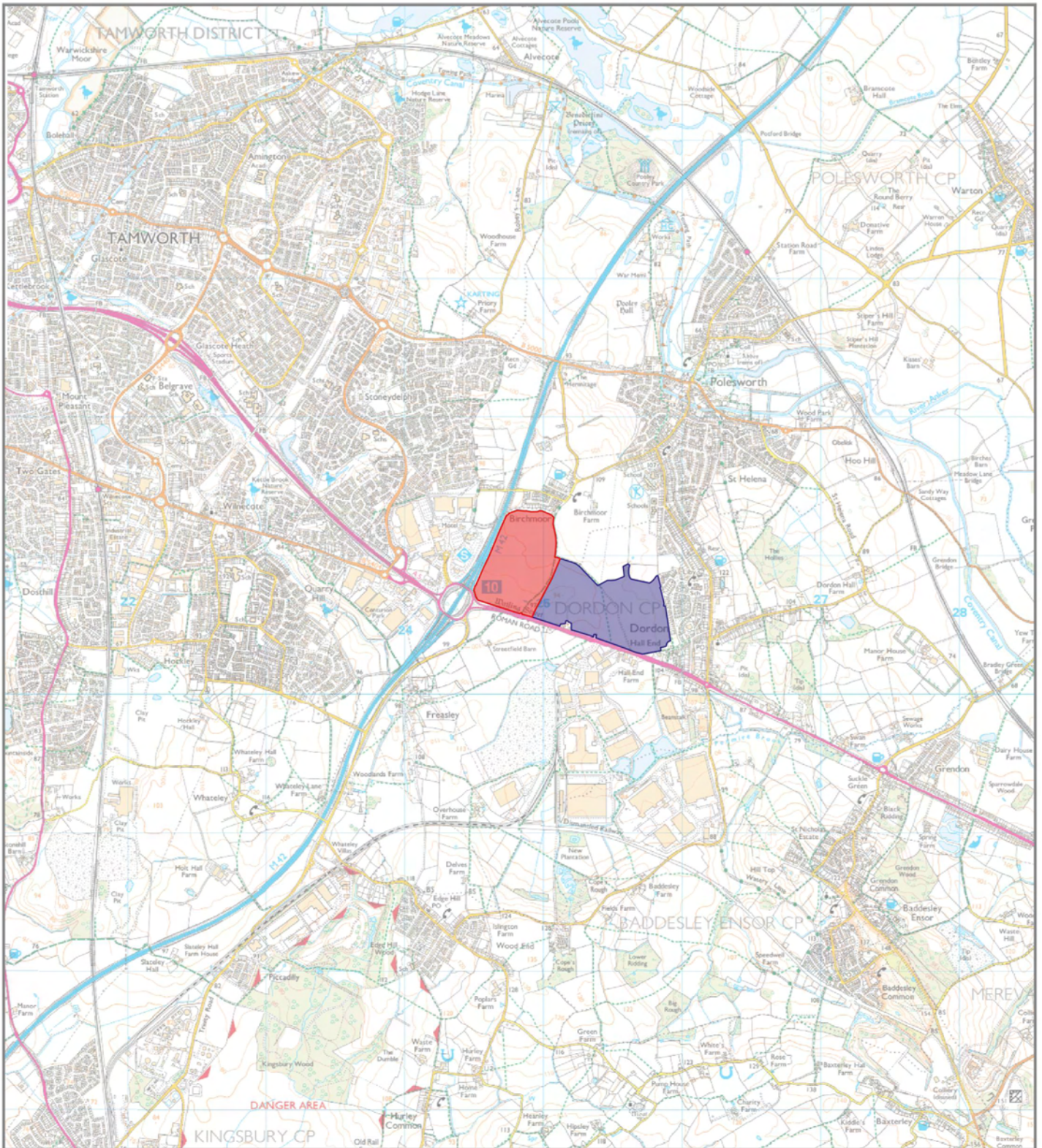
- 3.4 During the survey work undertaken in January and February 2021, a flock of approximately 200 Golden Plover was recorded within the survey area, centred on the central arable field, located immediately east of the development site (during the January 2021 survey, approximately 75 individuals were recorded within the western field forming the proposed development site, and in February 2021 a total of 9 individuals were recorded within the development site boundary, whilst the remainder were recorded outside of the proposed development site but within the wider adjacent survey area further east). This species was also heard calling after dark during the December 2020 survey, flying over the adjacent offsite field located north of the survey area. Golden Plover is included on the RSPB Green List and remains a common wintering species throughout the UK, forming large flocks that make use of lowland fields, with a UK wintering population of approximately 420,000 birds¹. Internationally, the species is listed as being of 'Least Concern', with 'very large' population size and population trend increasing.² Accordingly, the presence of this species is not considered to be of particular concern, whilst the majority of activity with regard to this species was noted to remain outside of the proposed development area within the central and eastern fields, which will remain present and under similar land use following the proposals.
- 3.5 Other species present within the internal arable areas include Linnet (including a flock of 100 in January and smaller numbers at other times), Skylark (up to 15) and Mistle Thrush (up to four), all of which are included on the RSPB Red List. Kestrels (Amber list) were present during each of the surveys, and there was also an incidental visit from a Peregrine in November 2020.
- 3.6 Only small numbers of common species were recorded in surrounding vegetation, including common winter visitors such as Fieldfare and Song Thrush, and several species associated with adjacent housing, such as Starling and House Sparrow.

¹ www.rspb.org.uk, most recently accessed 25/03/2021

² BirdLife International (2021) Species factsheet: *Pluvialis apricaria*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 25/03/2021

Plan 5971/WBS1:

Site and Survey Area Location



Key:

- Site Location
- Survey Area



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Land at J10, M42, North
 Warwickshire
 Site and Survey area

5971/WBS1

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