



APPENDIX 4.4 -  
BREEDING AND WINTERING BIRD SURVEYS

HAMBLE AIRFIELD  
HAMBLE LE RICE  
HAMPSHIRE

NOVEMBER 2021

ON BEHALF OF CEMEX



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#### Authorisation

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## SUMMARY

1. LC Ecological Services Ltd were commissioned by CEMEX UK to conduct breeding and wintering bird surveys on the land at the former Hamble Airfield, Hamble Lane, Hamble-le-Rice, Eastleigh, Hampshire. These surveys were required to support a planning application for a quarrying project.
2. The semi-improved grassland and scrub mosaic, native hedgerows and stands of broadleaved woodland on site were identified to provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for a wide range of mostly common bird species. It was also considered possible that wading birds and waterfowl associated with the nearby Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar, Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Dorset and Solent Coast SPA could potentially be using the application site for foraging and roosting purposes.
3. A total of forty-seven mostly common and widespread bird species were recorded on site during the 2020 breeding bird surveys, with seventeen species confirmed as breeding on site including three red list BoCC species (skylark, linnet and song thrush) and two amber list BoCC species (dunnock and common whitethroat). Three species were recorded as probably breeding on site, including one amber list BoCC species (willow warbler). Four species were recorded as possibly breeding on site, including one amber list species (stock dove). The site was also identified to be of value for breeding stonechat and local colonies of house sparrow and starling. Notable non-breeding records included spotted flycatcher, bullfinch, green woodpecker, house martin, swallow and long-eared owl. No wading birds or waterfowl were recorded during the breeding bird surveys.
4. During the wintering bird surveys a total of 51 species have been recorded either on site or flying over, this included 22 species of notable conservation status, including ten UK BAP Priority species, one Annex I species of the EC Birds Directive, four Schedule 1 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 species, and nine red listed and 11 amber listed BoCC species (Eaton 2015). The site was identified to be of value for overwintering flocks of the nationally declining species meadow pipit, skylark and linnet, as well as a number of other widespread species of conservation concern, including kestrel, green woodpecker, mistle thrush, dunnock, bullfinch, house sparrow, starling, song thrush, redwing and marsh tit. Any wading birds and waterfowl recorded were only flying over the site, with the exception of a single snipe flushed from grassland on site on one occasion. Low numbers of Dartford warbler were recorded on site during the winter surveys of 2015/2016 and 2017/2018. An update wintering birds survey commenced in October 2021 is still ongoing till end of March 2022.
5. Taking into account the numbers and conservation statuses of the breeding and wintering bird species recorded on site to date, as well as the relatively large area of suitable habitat that is available, the site is therefore considered to be of **local importance** for both breeding and wintering birds (Fuller, 1980).

6. The site is considered to be of substantial value for flocks of the nationally declining farmland bird species skylark, linnet and meadow pipit. The site is also considered to be valuable in terms of the overall assemblages recorded (all bird species recorded directly on site) during the surveys and in providing a year-round resource for wild birds within its local context.
7. The findings of the bird surveys to date indicate that the site and adjacent land is not being used by SPA or Ramsar waterbird species and is therefore not functionally linked to the SPA and Ramsar sites. The current ongoing wintering bird surveys will confirm if this remains to be the case.
8. It is uncertain whether the protected species Dartford warbler is still present either on site or within the locality as it has not been recorded since the surveys in 2017. The current ongoing wintering bird surveys will help to establish if this species is still using the site or is likely absent.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

LC Ecological Services Limited (LCES) were commissioned by CEMEX to conduct breeding and wintering bird surveys on the land at Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL (approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807) to support a planning application for phased aggregate extraction on the site, including the erection of a processing plant with silt lagoons and associated infrastructure, and post-quarrying restoration of the land.

The site lies within 320 metres of three statutory designated terrestrial sites within the national site network (NSN). The three terrestrial sites are: Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar, and Solent Maritime SAC. The River Hamble, which lies approximately 410 metres to the east of the site, also forms part of the Dorset and Solent Coast SPA. These sites are designated for supporting internationally important populations of breeding and over-wintering birds. The overwintering populations of dark-bellied brent geese (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) and waders are of particular note due to their use of adjacent fields for foraging and roosting at high tide. Sites used by migratory waterbirds listed as qualifying features on the SPA citation are considered part of (or functionally linked with) the SPA and development of these sites would require Habitats Regulations Assessment for potential impacts.

The former Hamble airfield was identified as having the potential to support wintering brent geese and waders from the Solent in the 2010 Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy. At the time the site was classified as uncertain for negative use by waders and brent geese as there were no confirmed records of either. The current version of the strategy (Whitfield, 2020) has removed the site from the strategy. Data provided by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) in 2021 shows the site and adjacent land to be designated as a non-statutory site for use by waders and brent geese, although it is confirmed as being a site with only negative records (confirmed absence of waders and/or brent geese) during surveys.

Refer to appendix 4.1 of the ES Ecology and Biodiversity Chapter (CEMEX UK, 2021).

Breeding and wintering bird surveys were considered necessary to establish the value of the site for supporting birds and whether or not it is used by any waders or waterfowl associated with the nearby coastal habitats and designated sites.

Section 2 of the report provides some background information on legislative requirements and relevant policy. Section 3 details the methodologies adopted for the surveys conducted and section 4 provides an account of the survey results. Section 5 provides information on the relevance of the survey results to a potential development and makes recommendations if required.

## 2.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

### 2.1 Legislation

The following legislation may be of relevance to the proposed works. Full details of statutory obligations with respect to biodiversity and the planning system can be found in DCLG Circular 06/2005.

- **The EU Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC):** The Birds Directive aims to protect all of the 500 wild bird species naturally occurring in the European Union. Annex 1 of the Directive lists 194 bird species and sub-species which are particularly threatened and member states must designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for their survival and all migratory bird species.
- **The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017:** This transposes the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) into domestic law. The Regulations provide protection for Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). These are a network of sites designated for supporting habitats or species of high nature conservation importance in the European context, including wild bird species. Any activity that has a detrimental effect on these European sites is made an offence under the Regulations. Where a development is likely to have a significant impact on a European site, the Regulations require a rigorous assessment of the impacts, known as an Appropriate Assessment.
- **The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments):** This Act also makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or to take, damage or destroy their eggs and nests (whilst in use or being built). Schedule 1 of the Act offers special protection to a number of certain bird species of conservation importance, which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the adults or young at, on or near an 'active' nest.
- **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006:** This Act enforces a duty on the planning authority and local council to conserve biodiversity (section 40). Additionally, section 41 encourages the local councils to be aware of the species and habitats of 'principal importance' and to act accordingly to protect and manage these habitats and species.
- **The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000:** This Act strengthens nature conservation and wildlife protection. It places a duty on Government Ministers and Departments to conserve biological diversity, provides police with stronger powers relating to wildlife crimes, and improves protection and management of SSSIs.

## 2.2 Policy

The following policy is of relevance to the proposed works:

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):** This sets out the Government's vision for biodiversity in England with the broad aim that planning, construction, development and regeneration should maintain and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. NPPF includes sections on legally protected species and sites (see Section 2.1).
- **Local Sites (including Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), and Biological Notification Sites (BNSs)/County Wildlife Sites (CWSs):** These are a network of sites designated for their nature conservation importance in a local context. Although they are not afforded legal protection they contribute towards local and national biodiversity. Where such development is permitted, the local planning authority will use conditions and/or planning obligations to minimise the damage and to provide compensatory and site management measures where appropriate.
- **Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs):** BAPs set out policy for protecting and restoring priority species and habitats as part of the UK's response as signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity. BAPs operate at both a national and local level with priority species and habitats identified at a national level and a series of Local BAPs that identify ecological features of particular importance to a particular area of the country. The requirement to consider and contribute towards BAP targets was strengthened through the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Species Action Plans that are likely to be of relevance include:
  - Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) (UK BAP)
  - Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*) (UK BAP)
  - House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) (UK BAP)
  - Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) (UK BAP)
  - Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) (UK BAP)
  - Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) (UK BAP)
  - Song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) (UK BAP)



## 3.0 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Desk study

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) provided records of protected and notable bird species and details of any non-statutory designated sites within 2 kilometres of the application site, including local sites designated for use by waders and brent geese. The Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was used to identify any statutory designated sites within 5 kilometres of the application site. A full summary of the desk study information is included in appendix 4.1 of the ES Ecology and Biodiversity Chapter (CEMEX UK, 2021).

### 3.2 Field study

Previous walkover surveys (refer to Appendix 4.1 of the ES Ecology and Biodiversity Chapter (CEMEX UK, 2021)) identified that the site had potential to support protected and notable bird species and therefore further breeding and wintering bird surveys were conducted.

#### 3.2.1 Breeding bird surveys

The standard Common Bird Census (CBC) methodology as developed by Marchant (1983) for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) was adopted for this survey. A set transect route was followed on five occasions between mid-March and mid-May 2015 with survey visits undertaken early in the morning when birds are most active. Experienced ornithologists Louisa Jones and Jeff Picksley conducted the survey visits in 2015. Any birds encountered were identified either visually or from their vocalisations. Birds were noted using standard BTO codes and behaviour<sup>1</sup> was mapped. Territories were determined using the criteria set out in table 2 below. Territory maps were composed following the methodology set out in Bibby *et al.* (1992). Update breeding bird surveys replicating this methodology were conducted on site between May and July 2017 by experienced ornithologists Louisa Jones and Alex Coggins, and between April and June 2020 by experienced ornithologist Adam Day.

**Table 2: Criteria for determining breeding bird territories**

Breeding status	Registration description
<b>Confirmed breeding territory</b>	Two registrations of a particular species displaying breeding behaviour within a territory range over the total survey period
	A single record of a nest containing eggs or young
	Two registrations of a difficult species (e.g. nocturnal species such as owls or woodcocks) within a territory range over the total survey period

<sup>1</sup> Breeding behaviour includes displaying, singing, territorial activity, agitated or defensive behaviour, pair of adults together

<b>Probable breeding territory</b>	Present in suitable habitat in the same location (within normal territory range) on two occasions
	Displaying breeding behaviour <sup>2</sup> on one occasion only
<b>Possible breeding territory</b>	Present in suitable habitat on one occasion only
<b>Non-breeding</b>	Present in habitat not suitable for breeding
	Immature birds (e.g. herring gull first breeds at 4 years of age)

The breeding bird assemblage on the site was assessed using the criteria set out by Fuller (1980), which has been adapted in the IEEM guidelines (2006) to reflect the decline in arable species since Fullers guidelines were originally published:

- Up to 24 breeding species = Local Importance
- 25 – 49 breeding species = District Importance
- 50 – 69 breeding species = County Importance
- 70 – 84 breeding species = Regional Importance
- 85+ breeding species = National Importance

The dates, timings and weather conditions of the breeding bird surveys are provided in table 3 below:

**Table 3: Dates, times and weather conditions during the breeding bird surveys**

Date of survey	Time	Weather
15/3/15	07:05 – 09:04	Light rain at start that cleared. Cloud cover 8/8. Still BF0.
6/4/15	06:25 – 09:45	Light mist at start of survey. Bright and clear. Cloud covers 0/8. Still BF0.
19/4/15	06:15 – 10:05	Dry and bright. Cloud cover 0/8 at start 2/8 by end (high cloud). North-east breeze BF3.
2/5/15	05:25 – 09:15	Overcast. Cloud cover 8/8. Variable east south-east breeze BF0 – BF2, occasionally up to BF4.
21/5/15	05:10 – 09:10	Initially overcast cloud cover 8/8, bright sunshine 07:55 to 08:50 then cloud returned. Variable north-west breeze BF1 with spells up to BF4.
23/5/17	05:15 – 08:45	Mostly clear with some cloud 3/8, very light breeze F1, mild 12 °C, no rain.
30/5/17	05:10 – 08:25	Mostly cloudy 6/8, light breeze F2, mild 12 °C, no rain.
9/6/17	05:05 – 07:40	Mostly clear with some cloud 2/8, light wind F3, 13°C, no rain.
3/7/17	05:15 – 08:45	Mostly cloudy with some clear spells 5/8, very light breeze F1, mild 12°C, no rain.
14/7/17	05:10 – 08:30	Clear skies 0/8, very light breeze F1, mild 12°C, no rain.
9/4/20	06:40 – 09:40	Clear skies 0/8, mild 12°C, no rain.
23/4/20	06:00 – 09:00	Clear skies 0/8, no wind, warm, no rain.
18/5/20	05:30 – 08:30	Overcast. Cloud cover 8/8, warm 18°C, no rain, light breeze F2.
26/5/20	05:00 – 08:00	Clear skies 0/8, no wind, mild 16°C, no rain.
5/6/20	04:50 – 08:00	Overcast. Cloud cover 8/8, warm 18°C, no rain, light breeze F2.

<sup>2</sup> Breeding behaviour includes: displaying, singing, territorial activity, agitated or defensive behaviour and pairs of adults together.

### 3.2.2 Wintering bird surveys

The standard CBC methodology, as developed by Marchant (1983) for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), was adopted for the wintering bird surveys. A set survey route was established on site and an initial wintering birds survey was undertaken in January and February 2015 by experienced ornithologist Louisa Jones. Further survey visits were subsequently undertaken during the winters of 2015/2016 and 2017/2018 by ornithologists Louisa Jones and Alex Coggins. An update wintering birds survey was commenced on site in October 2021 and the results of the first two update survey visits completed in October 2021 are included in this report. These update survey visits were undertaken by experienced ornithologist Andrew Joyce. This latest survey work is currently ongoing and will be completed by end of March 2022 with the full results provided in an updated report.

During the surveys any birds encountered were identified either visually or from their vocalisations and their approximate locations were recorded onto a plan of the site. The surveys were timed to coincide with high tide and were conducted from 2 hours before high tide until 2 hours after in order to record any species included as designation features of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA, such as wading birds and dark-bellied brent geese, which may be using the site.

Table 4 below summarises the dates, weather conditions and timings of the winter bird surveys.

**Table 4: Weather conditions during the wintering bird surveys**

Date	Start time	High tide time	Temperature (°C)	Weather conditions
20/01/15	08:40	10:40	1.5	Clear, cold, frosty day
25/01/15	12:30	14:30	8.5	Overcast, dry, still
10/02/15	12:55	14:55	7	Overcast, still, dry
23/02/15	12:10	14:10	8.5	Sunshine and cloud, slight breeze, dry
16/12/15	12:23	14:23	9	Cloudy, dry and a slight breeze
11/01/16	09:49	11:49	6	Clear, still, dry
28/01/16	11:42	13:42	9	Clear, still, dry
08/02/16	08:53	10:53	5	Sunshine and clouds, gusty, rain showers
06/11/17	10:09	12:09	6	Overcast, dry
20/12/17	09:51	11:51	5	Clear, still, dry
18/01/18	09:34	11:34	9	Clear, breezy, dry
19/02/18	11:17	13:17	5	Sunny intervals, breezy, dry
06/10/21	09:53	11:32	14	Cloudy, dry, calm
27/10/21	13.53	15:23	16	Cloudy, dry and a slight breeze

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Breeding birds

The semi-improved grassland and scrub mosaic, native hedgerows and stands of broadleaved woodland on site were identified to provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for a wide range of mostly common bird species, including both arboreal and ground nesters, migratory species, and species of conservation concern. In addition to the above, the desk study returned one record of the protected bird species Dartford warbler (*Sylvia undata*) on the former Hamble Airfield site (refer to Appendix 4.1 of the ES Ecology and Biodiversity Chapter (CEMEX UK, 2021)).

#### 2015 Survey

During the five breeding bird surveys undertaken by Lindsay Carrington Ecological Services Ltd in 2015 a total of 53 species were recorded. 23 of the recorded bird species were notable, this included six red listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC), 17 amber listed BoCC (Eaton, 2009) and eight bird species listed as UK BAP Priority species. 18 of the recorded species are confirmed to be breeding on the site and this includes the notable birds song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) and linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*) (red listed BoCC, UK BAP species) and dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) (amber listed BoCC, UK BAP species). A probable bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) territory (amber listed BoCC, UK BAP species) was also recorded. Full details of the survey results are provided in table 12 below, the recorded bird territories are illustrated in appendix IX.

Dartford warbler and stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*) were recorded breeding on the site in 2008 (Terence O'Rourke, 2008). Dartford warbler is a species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and amber list of the BoCC, it is moderately common in Hampshire and is largely confined to heathland in the New Forest, with small numbers also present in areas of coastal scrub. Stonechat is a relatively uncommon bird species which favours heathland, grassland and scrub habitats. Stonechat is a relatively uncommon species which favours open habitats including heathland, grassland and scrub. Dartford warbler was not recorded during the 2015 surveys. Two stonechat breeding territories were recorded on site in 2015.

The scrub, hedgerows and woodland within the site provided good quality nesting habitat for a number of resident and migrant passerine species including common whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*), blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*), dunnock, greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*), linnet and blackbird (*Turdus merula*). The more open areas to the north of the site, where the grassland is less rank and the scrub sparser, provided suitable breeding habitat for skylark which is a ground-nesting species.

Many of the territories recorded were located around the periphery of the site and include adjacent habitat outside of the site boundary such as residential gardens, copses, hedgerows and scrub. In some cases, the core of a recorded bird territory may fall outside

of the site boundary. This was particularly notable for species such as blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), great tit (*Parus major*) and robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), where virtually all territories encompass off-site habitats. Other recorded species for which no suitable nesting habitat is present on site, including hirundines, raptors and green woodpecker (*Picus viridis*), were not counted as having breeding territories within the site.

### 2017 Survey

A total of forty-six bird species were recorded on site during the 2017 survey, which included seven red list BoCC species, twelve amber list BoCC species and eight UKBAP priority species. A total of nineteen species were confirmed as breeding on site including three red list BoCC species (skylark, linnet and song thrush) and one amber list species (dunnock). Six species were recorded as possibly breeding on site including one red list BoCC species (mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)), and two amber list BoCC species (Dartford warbler and willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)). Full details of the survey results are provided in table 12 below, the bird territories are illustrated in appendix IX.

Areas of long-sward grassland, particularly in the north of the site, supported a total of eleven skylark territories. Skylark are a numerous but declining resident in Hampshire (HOS, 2015). The site is considered to be of local importance to this species, however the habitat in the surrounding area is not optimal. Linnets were recorded on site on all five surveys, with a maximum count of thirty-seven birds on one visit and an average count of twenty-eight. A total of eight breeding territories were confirmed on site, most of which were concentrated in the northern area of the site where the scrub is less dense. This species is common but declining in Hampshire, the site is considered to be of local importance for this species. Dartford warbler was only recorded once during the first survey visit and is therefore considered to be a possible breeder on site. Stonechat were also noted to be present on site.

Multiple territories of dunnock and song thrush were recorded across the site in the scrub and boundary vegetation. Dunnock and song thrush are common and widespread breeding species within Hampshire. The site is therefore not considered to be of importance for these species. Willow warbler and mistle thrush were both recorded during one survey visit and are therefore considered to have possible breeding territories on site. Willow warbler and mistle thrush are common and widespread breeding species within Hampshire, therefore the site is not considered to be of importance for these species. The buildings on the western boundary of the site supported colonies of house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) with the dense scrub on site providing foraging opportunities for this species. Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were recorded on site during each survey visit and the buildings adjacent to the site are considered likely to support colonies of starling.

### 2020 Survey

A total of forty-seven bird species were recorded on site during the 2020 survey, which included eight red list BoCC species, twelve amber list BoCC species and eight UKBAP

priority species. A total of seventeen species were confirmed as breeding on site including three red list BoCC species (skylark, linnet and song thrush) and two amber list BoCC species (dunnock and common whitethroat). Three species were recorded as probably breeding on site, including one amber list BoCC species (willow warbler). Four species were recorded as possibly breeding on site, including one amber list species (stock dove (*Columba oenas*)). A full summary of the survey results is provided in table 12 below, the confirmed breeding bird territories are depicted on the plan in appendix I.

Areas of grassland, throughout the site, supported a maximum of nineteen skylark territories. Skylark are a numerous but declining resident both in Hampshire and nationally (HOS, 2018). The site is considered to be of local importance to this species.

The scrub, native hedgerows and broadleaved woodland within and along the site boundaries provided good quality nesting and foraging habitat for a number of resident and migrant species. Linnet were recorded on site during all five surveys, with a maximum count of ten birds on a single visit. A total of four linnet breeding territories were confirmed on site, most of which were concentrated in the northern area of the site where the scrub is less dense. The site is considered to be of local importance for this species which is common but declining both in Hampshire and nationally (HOS, 2018). Multiple territories of dunnock, common whitethroat and song thrush were recorded across the site. These species are common and widespread breeding species within Hampshire. The site is therefore not considered to be of particular importance for these species. Willow warbler was recorded during surveys and was classified as probably breeding on site. Willow warbler is a common and widespread breeding species within Hampshire, therefore the site is not considered to be of particular importance for this species. The site was also identified to be of value for stonechat which is a more specialised species that favours open habitats. This species was recorded as probably breeding on site. The buildings adjacent to the western and eastern boundaries of the site supported colonies of house sparrow, with the dense scrub on site providing foraging opportunities for this species. Starling were recorded on site during most of the surveys and the buildings adjacent to the site are considered likely to support colonies of starling. Stock dove (*Columba oenas*) was recorded as possibly breeding on site.

Notable non-breeding records during the surveys included the red list BoCC and UKBAP species spotted flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*), the amber list BoCC and UKBAP species bullfinch, the amber list BoCC species green woodpecker, house martin (*Delichon urbica*) and swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), and long-eared owl (*Asio otus*).

The protected species Dartford warbler was not recorded during the 2020 surveys.

**Table 12: Breeding birds survey results 2015, 2017 and 2020**

Species	Latin name	National Status	County breeding status*	Number of visits when species was recorded			Maximum count on one visit			Breeding status on site		
				2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Green List BoCC	Common breeding resident	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	Non-breeding record.
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	4	4	5	6	9	5	Breeding. Three territories recorded.	Confirmed breeding on site.	Confirmed breeding on site.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	Numerous breeding resident	5	5	5	10	29	20	Breeding. Five breeding territories located within site.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber List BoCC	Common breeding resident	3	5	1	4	32	2	Non-breeding. Birds recorded both on site and flying over on 6 <sup>th</sup> April, 19 <sup>th</sup> April and 21 <sup>st</sup> May.	Non-breeding record.	Non-breeding record.
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Amber List BoCC	Breeding resident	-	1	-	-	10	-	-	Non-breeding record.	-
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber List BoCC	Locally common breeding resident	2	-	-	9	-	-	Non-breeding. Passage birds noted heading north on 6 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>st</sup> April.	-	-
Common swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Amber List BoCC	Numerous but declining summer visitor	1	4	2	3	4	5	Non-breeding. Three birds noted heading north on 21 <sup>st</sup> May.	Non-breeding record.	Non-breeding record.
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green List BoCC	Moderately common breeding resident	3	2	-	5	3	-	Non-breeding. Small numbers of birds recorded flying over site from mid-April onwards.	Non-breeding record.	-

CEMEX

Breeding and wintering bird surveys - Hamble Airfield

Species	Latin name	National Status	County breeding status*	Number of visits when species was recorded			Maximum count on one visit			Breeding status on site		
				2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020
Long-eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Green List BoCC	Moderately common breeding resident	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	Non-breeding record.
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	A non-native invasive species, Schedule 9 WCA (1981)	Common breeding resident	1	-	1	1	-	4	Non-breeding. Single bird noted flying over site on 6 <sup>th</sup> April.	-	Non-breeding record.
Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green List BoCC	Common breeding resident	3	-	2	3	-	2	Non-breeding. Birds noted flying over site on several visits.	-	Possible breeding territory.
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	Numerous breeding resident	5	5	5	26	37	10	Breeding. Maximum counts of linnet consisted during surveys varying between 19 and 26 birds during April and May. A minimum of ten territories recorded across the site.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	5	5	5	9	44	7	Breeding. A minimum of five territories recorded around margins of site.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.	Probable breeding territory.
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	5	5	5	22	29	11	Breeding. Eleven territories recorded across the site.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	Possible breeding on site.	-
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	4	-	2	3	-	2	Non-breeding. Very small numbers recorded foraging on or over flying site.	-	Possible breeding territory.



## CEMEX

## Breeding and wintering bird surveys - Hamble Airfield

Species	Latin name	National Status	County breeding status*	Number of visits when species was recorded			Maximum count on one visit			Breeding status on site		
				2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Green List BoCC	Abundant breeding resident	5	5	5	Not counted	38	10	Breeding. Birds present in hedgerows surrounding site with nesting activity and display noted	Foraging on site with nests suspected close to site.	Foraging on site with nests suspected close to site.
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone corone</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	5	5	4	10	13	12	Breeding. Very small numbers recorded on site, nest located in woodland strip behind Tutor Close. Largest counts included group of seven feeding in southern horse paddock on 6 <sup>th</sup> April.	Foraging on site with nests suspected close to site.	Foraging on site with nests suspected close to site.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	4	3	-	Not counted	4	-	Non-breeding. Birds regularly overflying site to nearby rookery.	Foraging on site with a rookery suspected to be close to site.	-
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	4	4	3	10	65	5	Non-breeding. Small numbers of birds recorded feeding on short grassland around ponies.	Foraging on site with nests suspected close to site.	Foraging on site with nests suspected close to site.
House martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Amber List BoCC	Numerous but declining summer visitor	1	1	2	2	3	2	Non-breeding. Two birds recorded over site on 21 <sup>st</sup> May.	Non-breeding record.	Non-breeding record.
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green List BoCC	Common breeding resident	4	-	1	2	-	1	Breeding. A territory was recorded along Satchell Lane.	-	Non-breeding record.
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Amber List BoCC	Scarce but increasing breeder since 1998	1	1	-	2	1	-	Non-breeding. Two birds noted heading east over site on 21 <sup>st</sup> May.	Non-breeding record.	-
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green List BoCC	Abundant breeding resident	5	5	5	22	6	8	Breeding. Fifteen territories recorded across survey area.	Confirmed breeding on site.	Confirmed breeding on site.

## CEMEX

## Breeding and wintering bird surveys - Hamble Airfield

Species	Latin name	National Status	County breeding status*	Number of visits when species was recorded			Maximum count on one visit			Breeding status on site		
				2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Green List BoCC, Schedule 1 WCA (1981)	Scarce but increasing breeding resident	1	-	-	1	-	-	Non-breeding. Single bird noted heading east on 19 <sup>th</sup> April.	-	-
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber List BoCC	Common breeding resident	2	2	-	1	2	-	Non-breeding. Birds noted flying over site on two visits	Foraging on site with nest suspected close to site.	-
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green List BoCC	Abundant breeding resident	3	-	-	3	-	-	Breeding. Two territories recorded.	-	-
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	1	2	2	2	2	1	Non-breeding. Single birds noted on northern and southern boundary of the site on 2 <sup>nd</sup> May.	Foraging on site with nests suspected close to site.	Foraging on site with nests suspected close to site.
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Amber List BoCC	Numerous summer visitor	3	-	3	2	-	7	Non-breeding. First migrant birds recorded on 19 <sup>th</sup> April. Small numbers noted on subsequent visits.	-	Non-breeding record.
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus argentus</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	Scarce but increasing breeder	2	5	1	6	12	1	Non-breeding. Birds recorded flying over site.	Non-breeding record.	Non-breeding record.
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	Non-breeding record.	Non-breeding record.
Mediterranean gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Amber List BoCC, Schedule 1 WCA (1981)	Moderately common and increasing breeder	1	-	-	2	-	-	Non-breeding. Birds recorded over site on 6 <sup>th</sup> April.	-	-

## CEMEX

## Breeding and wintering bird surveys - Hamble Airfield

Species	Latin name	National Status	County breeding status*	Number of visits when species was recorded			Maximum count on one visit			Breeding status on site		
				2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020
Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Amber List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	5	3	1	16	11	3	Non-breeding. Small numbers recorded flying over site or foraging on in paddocks and short grassland.	Non-breeding record.	Non-breeding record.
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	3	1	3	4	2	2	Non-breeding. Birds noted feeding on short grassland on site during three surveys.	Possible breeding on site.	Possible breeding on site.
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Red List BoCC,	Numerous breeding resident	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	Non-breeding record.
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	Numerous summer visitor	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	Non-breeding record.
Blue tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Green List BoCC	Abundant breeding resident	5	5	5	21	24	7	Breeding. Nine territories recorded around periphery of site.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.	Confirmed breeding with several territories.
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green List BoCC	Abundant breeding resident	4	5	5	13	18	5	Breeding. Seven territories recorded around periphery of site.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.	Confirmed breeding with several territories.
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	Numerous breeding resident	4	5	4	5	28	20	Non-breeding. Birds nesting in properties adjacent to site and foraging within survey area.	Breeding in properties adjacent to site.	Non-breeding. Birds nesting in properties adjacent to site and foraging within survey area.
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	1	-	-	1	-	-	Possible breeding. Singing bird recorded on 15 <sup>th</sup> March.	-	-
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Green List BoCC	Very scarce breeder since 2006	1	-	-	2	-	-	Non-breeding. Two birds noted flying over site on 6 <sup>th</sup> April.	-	-

## CEMEX

## Breeding and wintering bird surveys - Hamble Airfield

Species	Latin name	National Status	County breeding status*	Number of visits when species was recorded			Maximum count on one visit			Breeding status on site		
				2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous summer visitor	4	5	5	5	14	10	Breeding. Five territories located around the periphery of the site in woodland, mature scrub and hedgerows.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber List BoCC	Abundant summer visitor	1	1	4	1	1	2	Non-breeding. Migrant bird noted in hedgerow on 19 <sup>th</sup> April.	Possible breeding on site.	Probable breeding territory.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	5	5	3	12	16	7	Non-breeding. Small groups of birds regularly noted over flying or foraging on site.	Confirmed breeding on site.	Confirmed breeding on site.
Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Amber List BoCC	Common breeding resident	5	4	4	6	6	1	Non-breeding. The site is likely to form part of the territory of two pairs. Feeding birds regularly noted in both the north and south of the site where grazed areas provided foraging opportunities.	Foraging on site with nests suspected in surrounding woodland.	Non-breeding record.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List BoCC, UK BAP	Abundant breeding resident	5	5	5	25	28	10	Widespread breeder with twenty-three territories recorded.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber List BoCC, UK BAP	Numerous breeding resident	3	1	1	2	1	4	Probable breeding. A probable territory located on eastern side of site. Male recorded on 21 <sup>st</sup> May on Satchell Lane.	Non-breeding record.	Non-breeding record.

## CEMEX

## Breeding and wintering bird surveys - Hamble Airfield

Species	Latin name	National Status	County breeding status*	Number of visits when species was recorded			Maximum count on one visit			Breeding status on site		
				2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	3	3	-	2	3	-	Probable breeding. Birds recorded singing on northern and southern boundaries of site 15 <sup>th</sup> March. A single bird recorded 2 <sup>nd</sup> May. Singing birds recorded 21 <sup>st</sup> May along Satchell Lane and close to Hamble Primary School.	Confirmed breeding on site.	-
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Green List BoCC	Moderately common breeding resident	5	3	2	4	8	1	Breeding. Two pairs recorded holding territory. Southern pair recorded carrying food.	Confirmed breeding on site.	Probable breeding territory.
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	1	-	-	1	-	-	Non-breeding. Single calling bird recorded on western edge of site on 6 <sup>th</sup> April.	-	-
Collard dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	4	5	4	4	6	3	Non-breeding. Small numbers recorded during surveys.	Confirmed breeding on site.	Possible breeding on site.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	Abundant but declining breeding resident	5	5	4	32	66	48	Non-breeding. Birds recorded around feeding on paddocks and grassland with groups including juveniles in May. Breeding taking place off-site.	Breeding in properties adjacent to site.	Foraging on site. Breeding in properties adjacent to site.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous summer visitor	4	4	5	7	7	14	Breeding. Two territories located along woodland strip behind Tutor Close. Third territory on edge of Badnam Copse. First migrant recorded on 6 <sup>th</sup> April.	Confirmed breeding on site.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.

## CEMEX

## Breeding and wintering bird surveys - Hamble Airfield

Species	Latin name	National Status	County breeding status*	Number of visits when species was recorded			Maximum count on one visit			Breeding status on site		
				2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020	2015	2017	2020
Garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Green List BoCC	Numerous summer visitor	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	Confirmed breeding territory.
Common whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Amber List BoCC	Numerous summer visitor	3	3	5	14	25	13	Breeding. Eight territories recorded.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Green List BoCC	Moderately common but declining summer visitor	2	1	3	1	2	7	Breeding. Single territory on site.	Possible breeding on site.	Confirmed breeding with several territories.
Dartford warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Schedule 1, Amber List BoCC	Scarce breeding resident	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	Possible breeding on site.	-
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Amber List BoCC	Scarce breeder	2	-	-	2	-	-	Non-breeding. Birds noted off site on 2 <sup>nd</sup> May and flying over site on 21 <sup>st</sup> May.	-	-
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Green List BoCC	Abundant breeding resident	5	5	5	16	24	8	Breeding. Eleven territories recorded.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green List BoCC	Abundant breeding resident	5	5	5	37	34	10	Breeding. Thirteen territories recorded.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.	Confirmed breeding with multiple territories.
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	Numerous breeding resident	5	5	5	15	6	8	Breeding. Six territories recorded.	Confirmed breeding on site.	Confirmed breeding on site.
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red List BoCC	Numerous breeding resident	2	1	-	4	2	-	Non-breeding. Birds recorded feeding on site during both May surveys.	Possible breeding on site.	-

Evaluation of breeding bird assemblage

The breeding bird assemblage on site is outlined in table 13 below:

**Table 13: Breeding bird assemblage at Hamble Airfield 2015, 2017 and 2020**

	<b>Confirmed breeding</b>	<b>Probable breeding</b>	<b>Possible breeding</b>
Number of species (2015 survey)	18	2	1
Number of species (2017 survey)	19	-	6
Number of species (2020 survey)	17	3	4

A total breeding bird assemblage of 21 species was recorded on site in 2015, a total breeding bird assemblage of 25 species was recorded in 2017, and a total breeding bird assemblage of 24 species was recorded in 2020. Taking into account the numbers and conservation statuses of the breeding bird species recorded on site, as well as the relatively large area of suitable habitat that is available, the site is therefore considered to be of local importance for breeding birds (Fuller, 1980).

## **4.2 Wintering birds**

The semi-improved grassland and scrub mosaic, native hedgerows and stands of broadleaved woodland on site were identified to provide suitable overwintering habitat for a wide range of mostly common bird species. It was also considered possible that wading birds and waterfowl from the nearby Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar, Solent Maritime SAC and the Dorset and Solent Coast SPA could potentially be using the proposed development site for foraging and roosting purposes.

During the surveys a total of 51 species were recorded either on site or flying over, this included 22 species of notable conservation status, including ten UK BAP Priority species, one Annex I species of the EC Birds Directive, four Schedule 1 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 species, and nine red listed and 11 amber listed BoCC species (Eaton 2015). The mosaic of scrub and tussocky grassland on site was identified to provide important foraging and cover habitat for birds in the winter. A full summary of the wintering bird survey results is provided in table 14 below. The distributions of wintering bird species recorded across the site during the 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2017/2018 surveys is depicted on the respective plans included as appendix II.

**Table 14: Wintering birds survey results**

Species	Latin name	National Status	Number of visits species was recorded				Maximum count on one visit			
			2014/2015 survey	2015/2016 survey	2017/2018 survey	2021 survey	2014/2015 survey	2015/2016 survey	2017/2018 survey	2021 survey
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	-	2	5	4	1	6	11	4	3
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	-	3	4	1	-	10	7	4
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber List BoCC	4	5	3	1	37	9	18	5
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinereal</i>	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	-	1	-	-	-	11	-	-	-
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	-	3	1	-	1	3	1	-	1
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	-	3	2	1	-	41	3	4
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	-	4	5	4	1	9	20	8	6
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	-	4	5	4	-	14	17	11	-
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List BoCC	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	-	4	5	4	2	9	25	6	2
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone corone</i>	-	4	4	2	2	4	12	3	2
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	-	4	4	-	-	26	15	-	-
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	-	4	4	4	2	23	44	3	2
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Annex 1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	-	4	5	4	2	9	28	8	3
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber List BoCC	3	2	1	1	2	2	1	1
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	-	2	1	-	1	2	4	-	2
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	-	-
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber List BoCC	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-



Species	Latin name	National Status	Number of visits species was recorded				Maximum count on one visit			
			2014/2015 survey	2015/2016 survey	2017/2018 survey	2021 survey	2014/2015 survey	2015/2016 survey	2017/2018 survey	2021 survey
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	-	3	1	2	-	5	1	4
Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Amber List BoCC	2	5	1	2	9	54	2	24
Black-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Schedule 1 WCA, Red List BoCC, UK BAP	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Schedule 1, Annex 1, Amber List BoCC	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	-	3	3	1	-	3	2	1	-
Coal tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-
Blue tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	-	4	5	4	2	7	24	10	5
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	-	4	5	4	1	6	6	3	3
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	4	3	4	-	8	5	7	-
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Chiff chaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	-	4	5	4	2	17	24	10	5
Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Amber List BoCC	4	5	2	1	8	9	2	1
Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Marsh tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	Red List BoCC	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Dunnock	<i>Prunella</i>	Amber List	4	5	4	-	6	7	8	-

## CEMEX

## Breeding and wintering bird surveys - Hamble Airfield

Species	Latin name	National Status	Number of visits species was recorded				Maximum count on one visit			
			2014/2015 survey	2015/2016 survey	2017/2018 survey	2021 survey	2014/2015 survey	2015/2016 survey	2017/2018 survey	2021 survey
	<i>modularis</i>	BoCC, UK BAP								
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber List BoCC, UK BAP	-	2	2	-	-	1	3	-
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	-	4	4	4	2	5	5	5	6
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	-	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	6
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	2	5	3	2	26	44	13	12
Dartford warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Schedule 1, Amber List BoCC	-	2	1	-	-	3	1	-
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	-	4	5	4	2	5	11	7	1
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Schedule 1, Red List BoCC	4	3	2	-	9	35	5	-
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	-	4	5	4	1	8	18	6	2
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Red List BoCC, UK BAP	4	4	2	-	3	12	2	-
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Amber List BoCC	3	1	-	-	3	2	-	-

The majority of the 22 notable species recorded using the site over winter are considered to be relatively common and widespread within the county and were recorded in low numbers. These species included black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), herring gull (*Larus argentatus*), green woodpecker, kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*), stock dove, dunnock, bullfinch, house sparrow, starling, song thrush, redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) and marsh tit (*Poecile palustris*). In the wider surrounding area, there is alternative suitable habitat and therefore the site is not considered to be of significant importance to these species.

Small flocks of meadow pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) (amber listed BoCC) and low numbers of linnet and skylark (both red listed BoCC and UK BAP) were recorded within the more open grassland sections of the site. These species of farmland and open habitats are relatively widespread, although they are declining in Hampshire and nationally (HOS, 2018). Taking into account the low numbers recorded, the site is considered to be of local importance for these species of conservation concern.

A snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) was flushed from the grassland on site during one of the 2015/2016 survey visits. This species was only present on a single survey visit and given the extensive use of the site by the public and dog walkers it is therefore not considered that the site is suitable for frequent use by this species. During one of the survey visits in 2014/15 four black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*) were observed flying at altitude over the site, and during the 2015/2016 survey a little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and a great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) were also recorded flying over the site. As these species were only observed commuting over the site and not foraging or roosting on site, the site is therefore not considered to be of importance for these species.

Low numbers of Dartford warbler were recorded on site during the winter surveys of 2015/2016 and 2017/2018. This species has also previously been recorded on the site during surveys in 2008 (Terence O'Rourke, 2008). The grassland and scrub mosaic on site is considered to be potentially suitable to support this species over winter, however there have been no further records of it on site since the surveys of 2017/2018.

## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 *Breeding and wintering birds*

#### 5.1.1 Summary of findings

The semi-improved grassland and scrub mosaic, native hedgerows and stands of broadleaved woodland on site were identified to provide suitable nesting, foraging and overwintering habitat for a wide range of mostly common bird species. It was also considered possible that wading birds and waterfowl from the nearby Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar, Solent Maritime SAC and the Dorset and Solent Coast SPA could potentially be using the proposed development site for foraging and roosting purposes.

#### Breeding birds

Breeding bird surveys were undertaken by LCES in 2015, 2017 and 2020.

A total of forty-seven mostly common and widespread bird species were recorded on site during the 2020 breeding bird surveys. This included eight red list BoCC species, twelve amber list BoCC species and eight UKBAP priority species. A total of seventeen species were confirmed as breeding on site including three red list BoCC species (skylark, linnet and song thrush) and two amber list BoCC species (dunnock and common whitethroat). Three species were recorded as probably breeding on site, including one amber list BoCC species (willow warbler). Four species were recorded as possibly breeding on site, including one amber list species (stock dove). The site was also identified to be of value for breeding stonechat and local colonies of house sparrow and starling. Notable non-breeding records during the 2020 surveys included spotted flycatcher, bullfinch, green woodpecker, house martin and swallow. The protected species Dartford warbler, last recorded on site on one occasion during breeding bird surveys in 2017, was not recorded during the 2020 surveys. No wading birds or waterfowl were recorded during the breeding bird surveys.

#### Wintering birds

Wintering bird surveys were undertaken by LCES in 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2017/2018 and 2021 (ongoing till March 2022).

During the wintering bird surveys a total of 51 species have been recorded either on site or flying over, this included 22 species of notable conservation status, including 10 UK BAP Priority species, one Annex I species of the EC Birds Directive, four Schedule 1 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 species, and nine red listed and 11 amber listed BoCC species (Eaton 2015). The site was identified to be of value for overwintering flocks of the nationally declining farmland bird species meadow pipit, skylark and linnet, as well as a number of other widespread bird species of conservation concern, including kestrel,

green woodpecker, mistle thrush, dunnoek, bullfinch, house sparrow, starling, song thrush, redwing and marsh tit. Any wading birds and waterfowl recorded were only flying over the site, with the exception of a single snipe flushed from the grassland on site on one occasion. Low numbers of Dartford warbler were recorded on site during the winter surveys of 2015/2016 and 2017/2018, but this species has not been recorded on site since then.

### **5.5.2 Conclusions and further recommendations**

Taking into account the numbers and conservation statuses of the breeding and wintering bird species recorded on site to date, as well as the relatively large area of suitable habitat that is available, the site is therefore considered to be of **local importance** for both breeding and wintering birds (Fuller, 1980).

The site is considered to be of substantial value for flocks of the nationally declining farmland bird species skylark, linnet and meadow pipit.

The site is also considered to be valuable in terms of the overall assemblages recorded (all bird species recorded directly on site) during the surveys, which includes a reasonably good range of mostly common garden and woodland species, birds of open countryside and various summer and winter migrants. Given the relatively large size of the site, its semirural situation, and its connectivity with a variety of other suitable habitats for breeding and wintering birds in the surrounding landscape, it is therefore considered to provide a valuable year-round resource for wild birds within its local context.

The findings of the bird surveys to date are in line with the current Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy 2020 which does not identify the site and adjacent land as being used by SPA or Ramsar waterbird species. On the basis of the field survey results to date and the present condition of the habitats on site, it is concluded that the land is not functionally linked to the SPA or Ramsar. The current ongoing wintering bird surveys will establish if this remains to be the case.

It is uncertain whether the protected species Dartford warbler is still present either on site or within the locality as it has not been recorded since the surveys in 2017. The current ongoing wintering bird surveys will help to establish if this species is still using the site or is likely absent.

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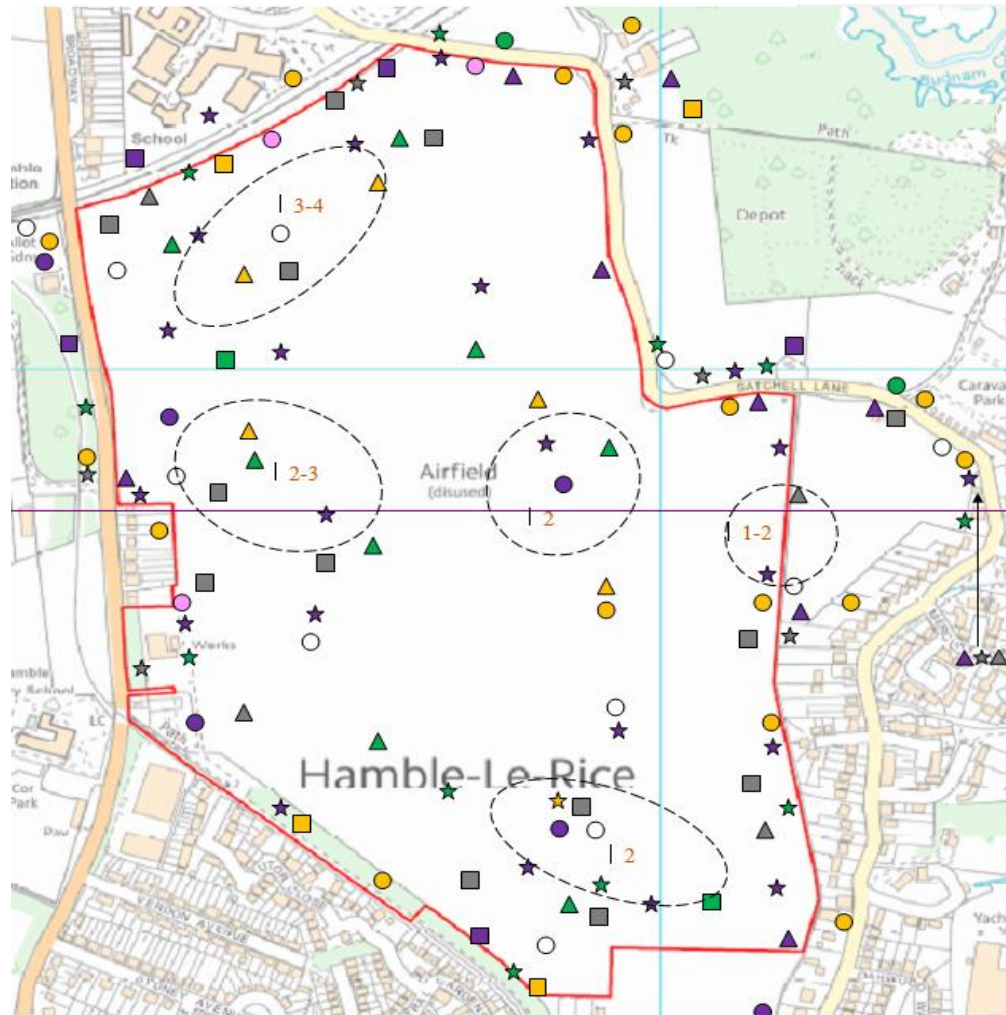
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## APPENDIX I: Breeding Bird Territories

### 2015 Surveys

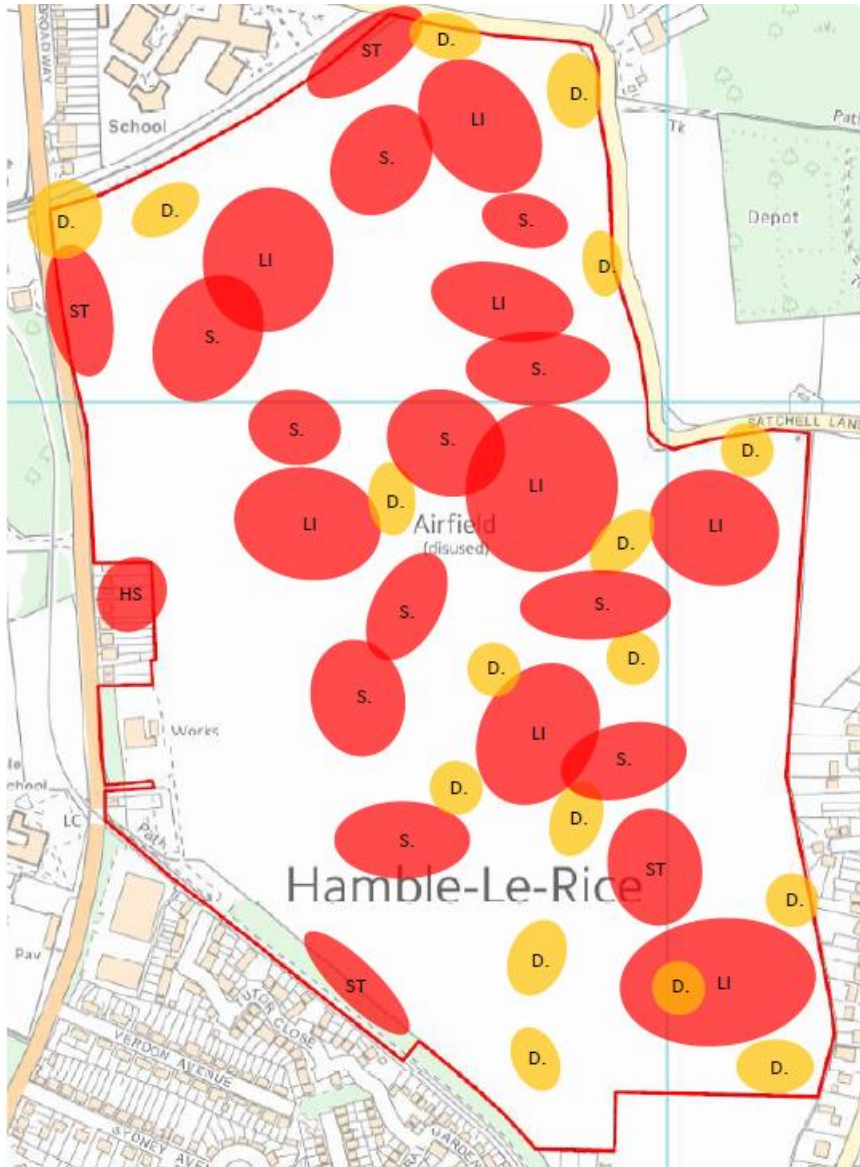


Key to 2015 breeding bird territories map



Code/colour	Species/visit
●	Robin
▲	Skylark
★	Lesser whitethroat
■	Blackcap
★	Wren
●	Chaffinch
■	Stonechat
▲	Whitethroat
★	Dunnock
▲	Blue tit
●	Song thrush
■	Chiffchaff
○	Greenfinch
■	Blackbird
★	Great tit
▲	Goldfinch
●	Long-tailed tit
○	Linnet



**2017 Surveys (species of conservation concern only)**



**Key to 2017 breeding bird territories map**

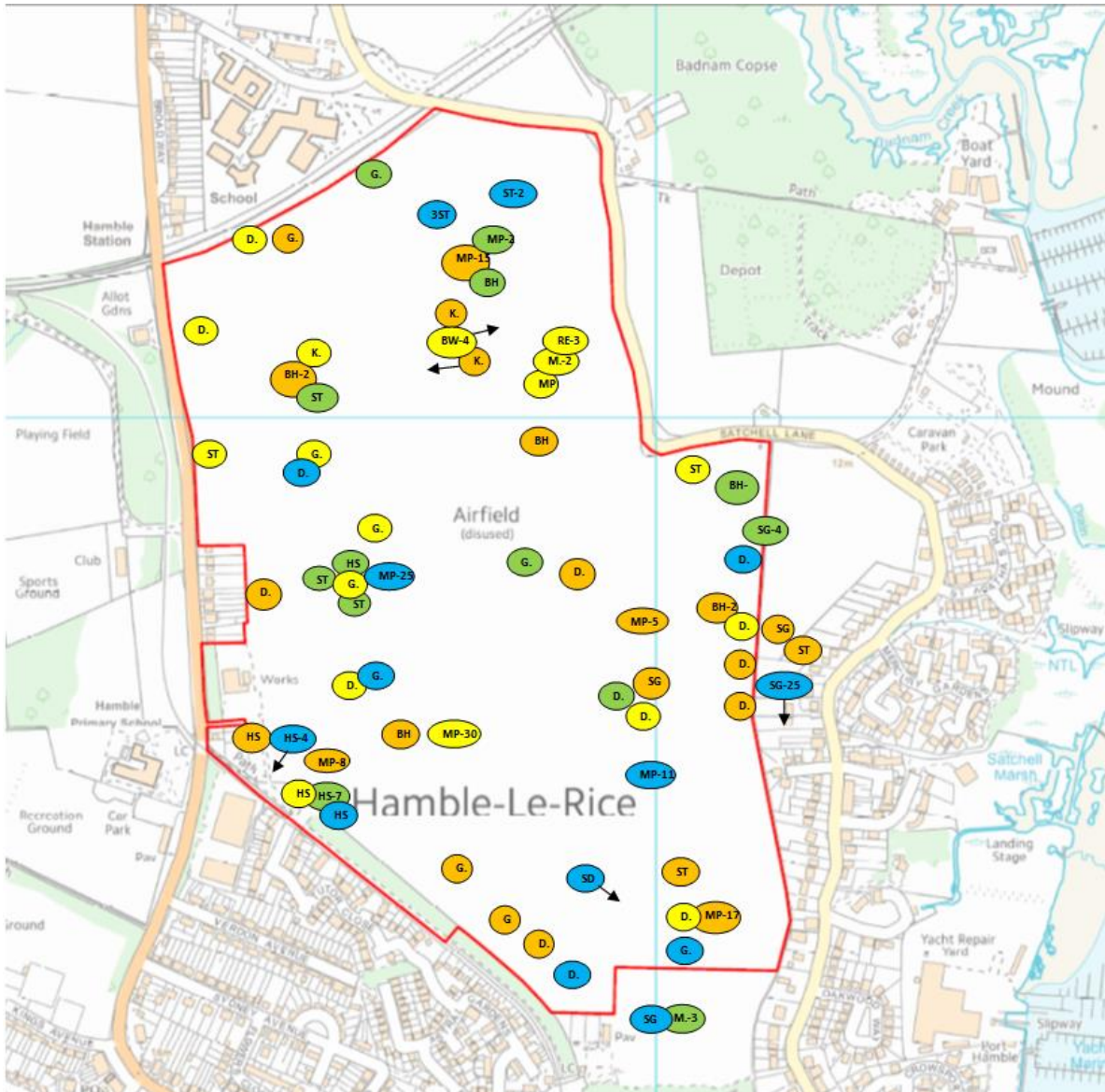
D.	Dunnock
HS	House sparrow
LI	Linnet
S.	Skylark
ST	Song thrush
	Birds of Conservation Concern amber list species
	Birds of Conservation Concern red list species

2020 Surveys

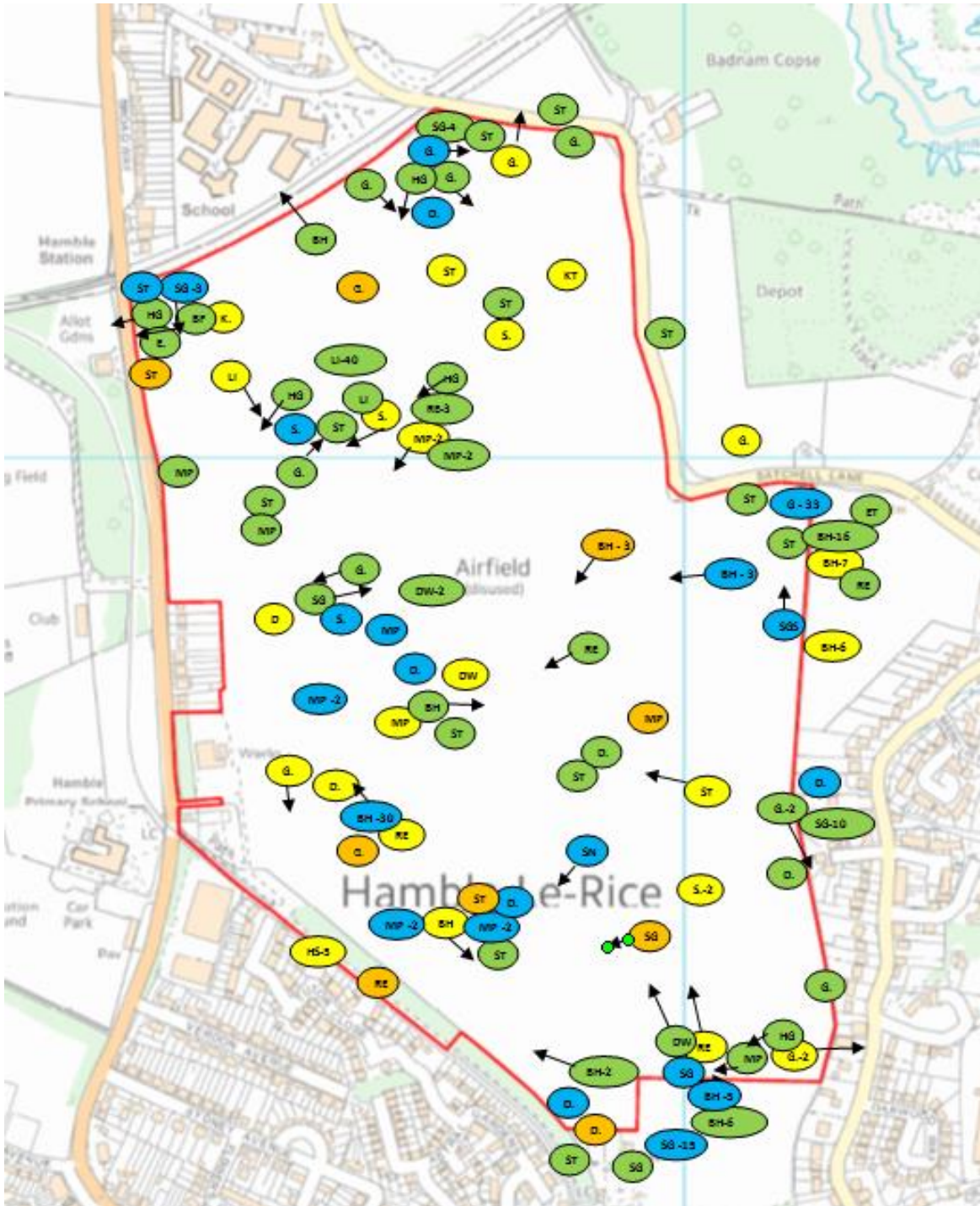


## APPENDIX II: Wintering Bird Locations

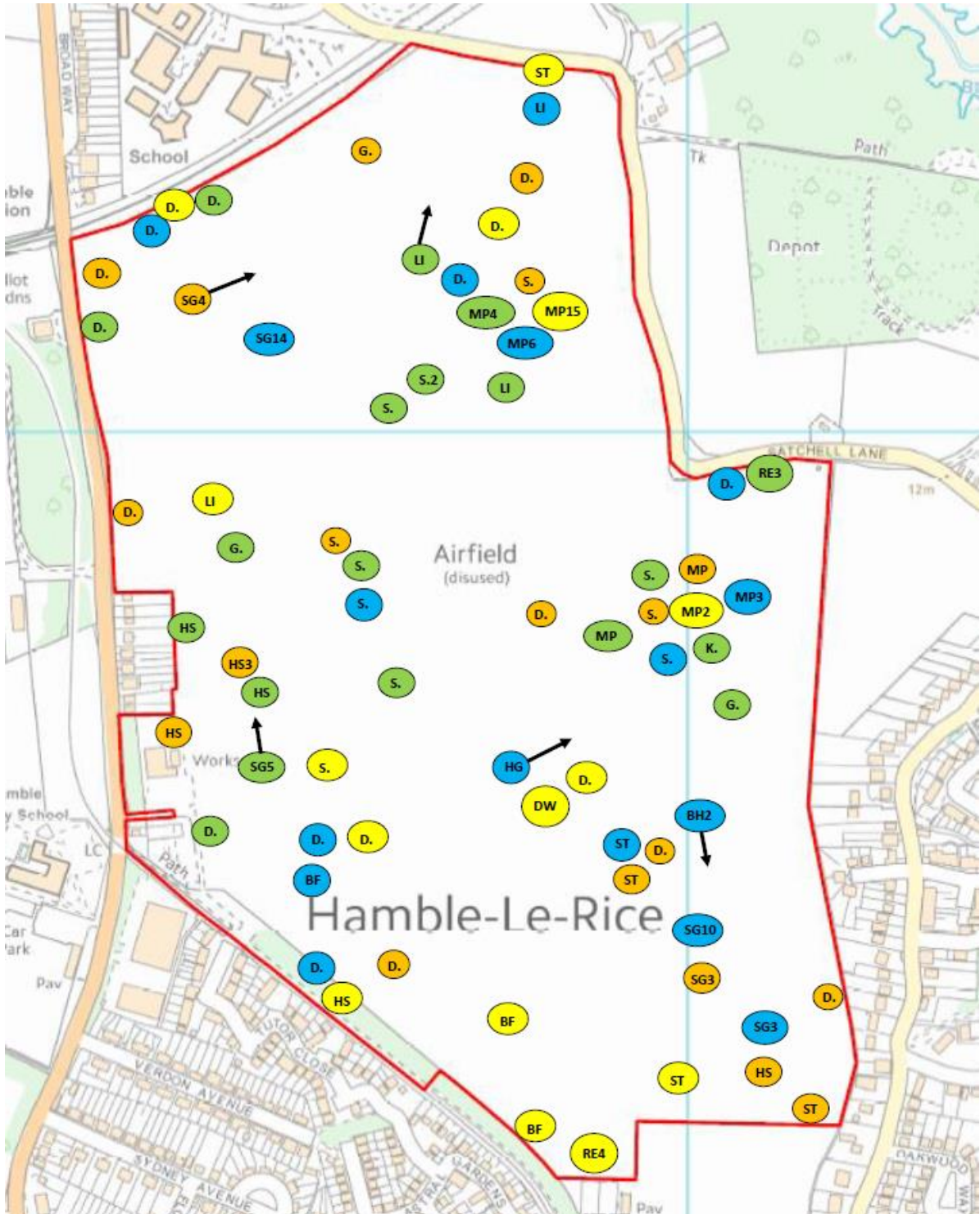
2015



2015/2016



2017/2018



**Key to wintering bird species maps**

Code/colour	Species/visit
G.	Green woodpecker
RE	Redwing
BH	Black-headed gull
ST	Song thrush
BF	Bullfinch
HG	Herring gull
ET	Little egret
K.	Kestrel
KT	Red kite
LI	Linnet
MP	Meadow pipit
D.	Dunnock
DW	Dartford warbler
BW	Black-tailed godwit
M.	Mistle thrush
S.	Skylark
SG	Starling
HS	House sparrow
SN	Snipe
SD	Stock dove
	Visit 1
	Visit 2
	Visit 3
	Visit 4