

Breeding Bird Scoping Letter Report

Site: Orton Road, Warton (Phase 2), Tamworth, nr B79 0JJ

Date: 21st March 2025

Proposal: "Outline planning application for the construction of up to 110 dwellings, with access, landscaping, sustainable drainage features, and associated infrastructure. All matters are reserved except for primary vehicular access from Church Road"

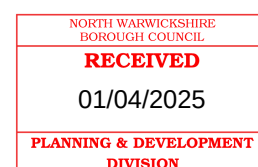
To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of Richborough Estates Ltd regarding the above site, to confirm that a breeding bird scoping survey has been undertaken at the site. The survey was completed by A. Elliott BSc ACIEEM on 21st March 2025. A total of 20 bird species (full list within Appendix A) were recorded on (or within 50m) of the site, including 2 species on the Red List and 6 species on the Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC⁵ - Stanbury et al., 2021). Use of the site by avian species was almost entirely restricted to the species-rich native hedgerow with trees that lines the site's southern and northern boundary. Hedgerow margins were <1m in width along the length of the hedgerows, and where present contained species indicative of nutrient enrichment. The site is currently utilised for crop production, and at the time of survey had been sown with a crop of winter wheat (*Triticum aestivum* sp.). Subsequently, the majority of the site's area offers little in the way of nesting and/or foraging resources for common and widespread species associated with lowland England. The boundary vegetation, however does offer a well-established and subsequently high quality nesting and sheltering resources for local bird populations at the site level.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* were heard singing within agricultural land adjacent to the site, however no territories were observed within the site itself. Whilst skylark do utilise agricultural fields for nesting, the site is considered sub-optimal for this species as it is a relatively small field (5.3ha) enclosed by hedgerows with trees (giving opportunities for perching predatory birds). Furthermore, the winter wheat is likely to grow rapidly in the coming months, creating a tall (>50cm), dense monoculture that will further reduce nesting suitability for this species as the season progresses.

In summary, it has been concluded that a full suite of breeding bird survey work is not considered necessary to support the upcoming planning application for the site. Mitigation measures to ensure that the legal protection afforded to wild birds in the UK can be seen below. Post-development enhancement measures and design-based compensatory measures for red/amber listed species and UKBAP species can be found within the Ecological Mitigation & Enhancement Scheme that will be produced for the planning application.

During construction of the proposed development, it is recommended that all vegetation clearance (such as sections of hedgerow to allow for new access), should be conducted outside of the core bird nesting season (March to August). Should areas of vegetation require clearance during the breeding season, then a pre-commencement survey for nesting birds should be undertaken by a qualified ecologist. If no nesting birds are present, then works can proceed but clearance must occur no more than 24 hours after the site visit from the ecologist. However, if active nests are recorded then protection measures including an exclusion zone around the nest will be necessary, with no works recommencing until all eggs have hatched and all chicks have fully and naturally fledged. A nest becomes protected from offence once adults have started gathering nesting material, up until



the last dependent young bird has stopped returning to the nest. Activity that could indicate nesting includes (but is not limited to):

- Adult birds being observed carrying nesting material.
- Eggs being observed within the nest.
- Adults carrying food towards the nest site.
- Young birds being observed and/or heard at the nest site.

Should you have any further queries concerning the application from an ecological perspective, please do not hesitate to get in touch at andy@weareblade.co.uk or info@weareblade.co.uk.

Kind regards,

Andy Elliott ACIEEM



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APPENDIX A Species List

Common Name	Species Name	Sch. 1 (W&CA, 1981)	S.41 NERC 2006/UK BAP	BoCC ⁵ Status
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			Amber
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓	Amber
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			
Carion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>			
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			
Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			Amber
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	✓		Amber
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			Red
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	Red
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	Amber
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			Amber

Survey Details:

Date: 21st March 2025

Start Time: 05:30

Sunrise Time: 06:03

Temperature Range: 8°C – 11°C

Visibility: Good

Wind (Beaufort): 0

Precipitation: N/A

BLADE Ecology Ltd is a CIEEM (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management) registered practice. The survey was led by a surveyor who has been assessed to be at least of capable experience for Breeding Bird Surveys following the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) competency framework by personnel with experience of the likely species assemblage for this geography and habitat type.