

Appendix 9.4

Winter Birds



Hallam Land Management Ltd

GREAT WILSEY PARK, HAVERHILL

Winter Bird Survey

Appendix 9.4

February 2015

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Figure 1: Winter Bird Survey 2014/15: Distribution of Notable Species Plan

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Appendix A: Full Survey Results and Suffolk LBAP Species

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following report has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd on behalf of Hallam Land Management Ltd. It provides results of winter bird surveys undertaken in 2014/15 at Great Wilsey Park, Haverhill, Suffolk (known hereafter as 'the application site' or 'the site').
- 1.2 The proposed development site covers approximately 168.34ha to the north east of Haverhill (Figure 1) and is mainly laid out for arable farming, interrupted by blocks of deciduous and mixed woodland.
- 1.3 The northern and southern boundaries form the sides of a valley within the site, created by a watercourse that flows into the proposed development site from the north west. The watercourse is a tributary of the River Stour, located approximately 1km to the north west of the proposed development site.
- 1.4 The proposed development site is bound by the A143 Haverhill Road to the northwest; open fields delineated by drainage ditches and Little Wratting hamlet to the north; hedgerows and open fields to the northeast; B1061 Sturmer Road and Calford Green hamlet to the east; Coupals Road to the southeast; the edge of Haverhill to the southwest; Chalkstone Way, a secondary school and houses on the A143 Haverhill Road to the west.
- 1.5 The proposed development will comprise approximately 2,500 residential units, local employment uses, education, community and leisure facilities, public open space and recreation facilities.

2.0 LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

2.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)¹ is the principal legislation affording protection to UK wild birds. Under this legislation all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence, with certain exceptions to recklessly or intentionally:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while in use or being built;
- Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

2.2 Species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are specially protected at all times.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

2.3 A number of birds feature on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006², Section 41 (S41) as species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of the NERC Act, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.

Biodiversity Action Plan

2.4 The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), published in 1994, was the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which the UK signed up to in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The UKBAP described the biological resources of the UK and provided detailed plans for conservation of these resources.

2.5 In 2012, the UKBAP was replaced by the *UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012)*³. The result of this change is that the BAP process has been devolved to local level with each county deciding its own way forward. Suffolk made the decision in June 2013 to continue to support the Suffolk BAP, still enshrined in law through the NERC Act 2006, and also in planning policy through the National Planning Policy Framework and National Policy Statements.

2.6 A full list of Suffolk Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) bird species is provided in Appendix A.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

³ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>

Non-Statutory Guidance

2.7 In addition to statutory protection, some bird species are classified according to their conservation status, such as their inclusion on the Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) in the UK⁴:

- Red list (high conservation concern) species are those that are Globally Threatened according to IUCN criteria; those whose population has declined rapidly (50% or more) in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.
- Amber list (medium conservation concern) species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately (between 25% and 49%) in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations.
- Green list (low conservation concern) species fulfil none of the above criteria.

⁴ 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: http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/BoCC_tcm9-217852.pdf

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Field Survey Methodology

Winter Bird Survey

- 3.1 The survey methodology employed was based on that recommended in standard literature e.g. Winter Farmland Bird Survey as used for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)^{5,6}. Standard BTO species codes and symbols for bird activities were used to identify birds and denote activity, sex and age where appropriate.
- 3.2 To provide a reasonable level of accuracy for determining the population status of the wintering birds on the site, four surveys were undertaken between November 2014 and February 2015 between 08.00 and 16.00hrs.
- 3.3 A route was mapped out prior to the surveys being undertaken, paying particular attention to any linear features, such as hedgerows and tree lines, and natural features such as areas of scrub, woodland and waterbodies. The surveyor walked this predefined transect during each visit. All birds seen or heard were marked on a plan using standard BTO notation. Bird surveys were not undertaken in unfavourable conditions such as heavy rain or strong wind, which may negatively affect the results.

Assessment Methodology

- 3.4 The conservation value of bird populations has been measured using two separate approaches: nature conservation value and conservation status. The IEEM guidance on ecological impact assessment assesses nature conservation value within a geographical context. To attain each level of value, an ornithological resource or one of the features (species population or assemblage of species) should meet the criteria set out in Table 1 below. In some cases, professional judgement may be required to increase or decrease the allocation of specific value, based upon local knowledge.

Table 1: Definition of Terms Relating to Nature Conservation Value

Nature Conservation Value	Examples of Selection Criteria
International	A species which is part of the cited interest of an SPA and which regularly occurs in internationally or nationally important numbers. A species present in internationally important numbers (>1% of international population).

⁵ Bibby, C.J., N.D. Burgess & D.A. Hill (1992): Bird Census Techniques. London: Academic Press

⁶ Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D.W., and Evans, J. (1998). Bird Monitoring Methods: a manual of techniques for key UK species. RSPB, Sandy

Nature Conservation Value	Examples of Selection Criteria
National	<p>A species which is part of the cited interest of a SSSI and which regularly occurs in nationally or regionally important numbers.</p> <p>A nationally important assemblage of breeding or over-wintering species.</p> <p>A species present in nationally important numbers (>1% UK population).</p> <p>Rare breeding species (<300 breeding pairs in the UK).</p>
Regional	<p>Species of principal importance under Schedule 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006), which are not covered above, and which regularly occurs in regionally important numbers.</p> <p>Species present in regionally important numbers (>1% of regional population).</p> <p>Sustainable populations of species which are rare or scarce within a region.</p> <p>Species on the BoCC Red List and which regularly occurs in regionally important numbers.</p>
County	<p>Species of principal importance under Schedule 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006), which are not covered above and which regularly occurs in county important numbers</p> <p>Species present in county important numbers (>1% of county population).</p> <p>Sustainable populations of species which are rare or scarce within a county, or listed as of principal importance under S41 of the NERC Act.</p> <p>A site designated for its county important assemblage of birds (e.g. a SINC Site).</p> <p>Species on the BoCC Red List and which regularly occur in county important numbers.</p>
District	<p>Species of principal importance under Schedule 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006), which are not covered above, and are rare in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile.</p> <p>Species present in numbers just short of county importance.</p> <p>Sustainable populations of species which are rare or scarce within the locality.</p> <p>A site whose designation falls just short for inclusion for its county important assemblage of birds (e.g. a SINC Site).</p> <p>Other species on the BoCC Red List and which are considered to regularly occur in district important numbers.</p>
Local	<p>Other species of conservation interest (e.g. all other species on the BoCC Red and Amber List and listed as of principal importance under Schedule 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) which are not covered above) regularly occurring in locally sustainable populations.</p>
Site	<p>All other BoCC Green-listed common and widespread species.</p>

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 A total of 42 species were recorded within the site boundary during the surveys, including 16 species that are listed as Schedule 1, NERC or LBAP priority species and/or feature on the BoCC Red and Amber lists (Table 2). Full survey results are provided in Appendix A.

Table 2: Schedule 1, NERC, LBAP, BoCC Red- and Amber-Listed Bird Species Recorded at Great Wilsey Park, Haverhill during Winter Bird Surveys 2014/15 and their Recent Status in Suffolk

Species	Conservation Status	Recent Status in Suffolk ⁷
Kestrel	Amber	Common resident. Scarce passage migrant.
Black-headed gull	Amber	Very common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant
Herring gull	Red, NERC, LBAP	Very common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant
Stock dove	Amber	Fairly common resident and passage migrant
Green woodpecker	Amber	Common resident
Skylark	Red, NERC, LBAP	Common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant
Starling	Red, NERC, LBAP	Very common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant
Fieldfare	Red, Schedule 1	Common winter visitor and passage migrant
Song thrush	Red, NERC, LBAP	Fairly common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant
Redwing	Red, Schedule 1	Common winter visitor and passage migrant
Mistle thrush	Amber	Fairly common resident and scarce passage migrant
Dunnock	Amber, NERC, LBAP	Very common resident and fairly common migrant
House sparrow	Red, NERC, LBAP	Common resident
Meadow pipit	Amber	Common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant
Bullfinch	Amber, NERC, LBAP	Common resident
Reed bunting	Amber, NERC, LBAP	Common resident and passage migrant

⁷ Suffolk Ornithologists' Group (2014): Suffolk Birds 2013; Vol.63. The following definitions are given as a guide to relative species status: Very common – occurs in large numbers in suitable habitat and season; Common – occurs regularly or widely distributed in suitable habitat and season; Fairly common – occurs in small numbers in suitable habitat and season; Scarce – one or two records each year or restricted to specific habitats.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION OF IMPACTS

Bird Assemblage Value

- 5.1 The species recorded on site are typical of the main habitats available on site, and are particularly characterised by notable species of open arable farmland and field margins (e.g. kestrel, black-headed gull, herring gull, stock dove, skylark, fieldfare, meadow pipit, reed bunting); woodland (green woodpecker, stock dove song thrush, redwing, mistle thrush, dunnock) hedgerows and trees (fieldfare, song thrush, redwing, dunnock, bullfinch, reed bunting) and the urban fringe (starling, song thrush, dunnock, house sparrow).
- 5.2 All of the 42 recorded species are fairly common to very common resident or overwintering species in Suffolk and the UK, and no significant populations were registered⁸. The application site is considered to be of **local** nature conservation value in winter for the sixteen notable species listed in Table 2. For the remaining 26 green-listed and unlisted species, the site is assessed as being of **Site** nature conservation value in winter.

Impacts of Habitat Loss/Change

- 5.3 The impact on wintering bird species arising from the potential effects of development is based upon an understanding of each species' ecological requirements, the type of development, number of birds recorded on site, their nature conservation criteria based on legislation and current guidance (e.g. Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern 3 (2009); S41 NERC Act priority species and Local BAP species), their local status according to the *Suffolk 2013 Bird Report* and professional judgement.
- 5.4 The species recorded on site that are arguably the most vulnerable to impacts are the ten 'notable' species that appear on the BoCC Red list and/or are listed as priority species for nature conservation under S41 of the NERC Act or feature on the Suffolk LBAP. The habitat requirements, species account, and nature conservation value of these species are discussed further (Table 3). In addition, residual impacts arising from the proposed development in terms of habitat loss / change have been assessed against the development proposals set out in the Illustrative Masterplan Rev B (August 2015).

⁸ A max count of 90+ black-headed gulls (Amber) was recorded loafing in an arable field compartment in the SW part of the site in February, immediately east of the Samuel Ward Academy School; however, the Suffolk Bird Reports list several registrations of 1,000+ flocks in the county each winter and, in this context, the flock of 90 birds on site is considered to be unexceptional.

Table 3: Habitat Requirements, Species Account, Nature Conservation Value and Impact Assessment of Schedule 1, BoCC Red-listed, NERC Act and Suffolk LBAP Species Recorded during Winter Bird Surveys 2014/15 at Great Wilsey Park, Haverhill

Species	Habitat Requirements ⁹	Species Account ¹⁰ (Counts Nov;Dec;Jan;Feb)	Nature Conservation Value ¹¹	Characterisation of Unmitigated Impact	Suggested Mitigation / Compensation / Enhancements / Comments	Residual Impact ¹²
Herring gull	Breeds around the coasts of Britain and Ireland on cliffs, beaches, shingle islands, moorland and buildings. Widespread outside breeding season, but still concentrated on the coasts. Feeds on urban rubbish tips, visits town parks during the day and roosts on playing fields and at night on reservoirs and estuaries.	(0;1;0;0) The only record was of a single immature bird loafing with black-headed gulls in an arable field in the SW corner of the site in Dec. County context: Very common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Winter herring gull flocks in the hundreds are not uncommon in Suffolk, particularly near to the coast and large waterbodies.	Local	Minor loss of loafing habitat (arable fields).	The development proposals include 71.4ha of Green Infrastructure (GI), 42% of the total site area. Within the GI proposals, areas of the existing landscape of woodland, hedgerows and trees etc, will be supported by a network of new broadleaved woodland, trees, hedgerows, allotments, areas of parkland including a country park, conservation grassland and wetland habitats, including Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Larger areas of public open space, such as the proposed country park and SuDS through the middle of the site, will continue to provide suitable loafing areas for the modest number of gulls recorded on site in winter.	Negligible

⁹ Snow, D. W. & Perrins, C. M. (1998): The Birds of the Western Palearctic Concise Edition

¹⁰ County contexts are summarised from Suffolk 2010 Bird Report

¹¹ Based upon criteria set out in Table 1 and professional judgement

¹² Assumes that any suggested or proposed mitigation, compensation or enhancements are undertaken in full

Species	Habitat Requirements ⁹	Species Account ¹⁰ (Counts Nov;Dec;Jan;Feb)	Nature Conservation Value ¹¹	Characterisation of Unmitigated Impact	Suggested Mitigation / Compensation / Enhancements / Comments	Residual Impact ¹²
Skylark	Ground nesting birds favouring open farmland habitats. Plant and animal material taken at all times of the year, but weed seeds especially important in winter. UK winter numbers are significantly boosted by birds from northern and eastern Europe arrive in Britain in October and return in January.	(6;4;0;0). A small flock of six birds was recorded in Nov in an arable stubble field in the north of the site adjacent to Little Wratting; four birds were foraging in arable habitat in the SW corner of the site adjacent to Samuel Ward Academy in Dec. Not recorded in Jan or Feb. County context: Common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Twelve county sites are cited where winter flocks of more than 100 skylarks occurred.	Local	Loss of winter foraging habitat (arable).	Skylarks are reluctant to use areas that are subject to high levels of regular human disturbance. As such, this open-arable field specialist is likely to be lost to development, given the loss of arable habitat and a reduction of an open-field structure. However, the species was recorded using the site in modest numbers throughout winter and the loss of habitat is not significant to the local skylark population.	Minor Negative

Species	Habitat Requirements ⁹	Species Account ¹⁰ (Counts Nov;Dec;Jan;Feb)	Nature Conservation Value ¹¹	Characterisation of Unmitigated Impact	Suggested Mitigation / Compensation / Enhancements / Comments	Residual Impact ¹²
Starling	Forages mainly on the ground in open areas of short grass or sparse vegetation, e.g. cereal stubble, farmyards. Like skylarks, the UK winter population is increased massively by mainland European birds.	(25;23;30;38) Small flocks of birds were recorded throughout winter foraging in arable habitat, with a peak count in Feb. County context: Very common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Flocks of 1000+ starlings are reported from several Suffolk sites, with winter roosts of 50,000+ birds reported on the east coast.	Local	Loss of foraging habitat. (arable)	The country park and SuDS habitats with the GI proposals will continue to provide suitable foraging opportunities for the species. In particular, consideration within the SuDS design of the creation of a new reedbed would provide a new roosting resource for the local starling population. Starlings will also readily frequent residential areas, particularly once established.	Minor Positive

Species	Habitat Requirements ⁹	Species Account ¹⁰ (Counts Nov;Dec;Jan;Feb)	Nature Conservation Value ¹¹	Characterisation of Unmitigated Impact	Suggested Mitigation / Compensation / Enhancements / Comments	Residual Impact ¹²
Fieldfare	Widespread winter visitor occurring almost anywhere. Feeds along hedgerows and in orchards, pastures and other areas of short grass, and on arable fields. Feeding sites are often close to woodland and tall hedges. Nomadic in winter as they travel the countryside for food, sometimes joined by other thrushes and starlings.	(0;0;32;0) A small flock of 32 birds were recorded foraging in arable habitat in the south-eastern section of the site, south of Calford Green, in Jan only. County context: Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Three figure flocks were reported from 24 sites in Suffolk, with nine of those citing flocks of more than 200 birds.	Local	Loss of foraging habitat (arable).	Trees and hedgerows, valuable winter fieldfare foraging and roosting features, will be retained and enhanced across the application site. Any newly-planted native tree and hedgerow species should include berry- and fruit-bearing species. Fieldfares will also use open amenity and wetland grasslands in which to forage for invertebrates.	Negligible

Species	Habitat Requirements ⁹	Species Account ¹⁰ (Counts Nov;Dec;Jan;Feb)	Nature Conservation Value ¹¹	Characterisation of Unmitigated Impact	Suggested Mitigation / Compensation / Enhancements / Comments	Residual Impact ¹²
Song thrush	Birds can exist anywhere where trees or bushes accompany open grassland or patches of dead leaves supporting ample invertebrates. Will readily take to hedgerows, railway embankments and small gardens. Many that breed in Scandinavia pass through Britain as they head south in autumn; others from Belgium and Holland winter in southern Britain.	(1;3;2;2) Single birds were recorded in various locations across the site on all surveys, always associated with established woodland blocks and treelines. County context: Fairly common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. No specific winter population data is provided in county bird reports, but the species <i>fairly common</i> classification means song thrushes occur in small numbers in suitable habitat and season in Suffolk, although what constitutes 'small numbers' is not clarified.	Local	Minor loss of foraging habitat (e.g. short hedgerow sections, where access roads are proposed).	Areas in which song thrush was recorded are to be retained (woodland blocks and mature trees). Further woodland, tree and hedgerow planting within the GI will likely increase the overall useable habitat available to song thrush and provide a movement corridor through the site. Song thrushes will also readily inhabit residential areas, particularly once established.	Negligible

Species	Habitat Requirements ⁹	Species Account ¹⁰ (Counts Nov;Dec;Jan;Feb)	Nature Conservation Value ¹¹	Characterisation of Unmitigated Impact	Suggested Mitigation / Compensation / Enhancements / Comments	Residual Impact ¹²
Redwing	Widespread winter visitor in Britain between October and March. Generally rather shy feeding in hedges and orchards and open areas of short grass. Visits farmland, parks and large gardens. The winter population of Britain and Ireland has been estimated at over a million birds. Will feed and roost with other thrushes, especially fieldfares.	(27;1;14;0) A small November flock of 27 birds was recorded foraging along the eastern woodland edge of Great Field Plantation and 14 birds were doing the same in Jan. A single bird flew over the immature woodland plantation south of Great Field Plantation in Dec. None recorded in Feb. County context: Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Three-figure flocks were reported from 12 Suffolk sites in winter, with three reporting flocks of 200 birds.	Local	Minor loss of foraging habitat (e.g. short hedgerow sections, where access roads are proposed).	Areas in which redwings was recorded (woodland edge) are to be retained. Further woodland, tree and hedgerow planting within the GI will likely increase the overall useable habitat available to the species and provide a movement corridor through the site.	Negligible

Species	Habitat Requirements ⁹	Species Account ¹⁰ (Counts Nov;Dec;Jan;Feb)	Nature Conservation Value ¹¹	Characterisation of Unmitigated Impact	Suggested Mitigation / Compensation / Enhancements / Comments	Residual Impact ¹²
Duncock	Commonly invades a wide variety of scrub grown situations. Has adapted to field hedgerows, farms, railway embankments, parks, gardens and vacant urban land. Feeds mainly on insects but small seeds are an important winter food.	(3;3;6;7) Recorded on all surveys in hedgerows throughout the site; with a max of 7 birds present in Feb. County context: Very common resident and fairly common migrant. Little winter data is provided in county reports; classification as a <i>very common resident</i> reflects duncock as a well-represented species in the county <i>in large numbers in suitable habitat and season.</i>	Local	Minor loss of foraging, roosting and territorial habitat (e.g. short hedgerow sections, where access roads are proposed).	Much of the hedgerow habitat will be retained and enhanced with native species planting. Further woodland planting will continue to provide a suitable winter resource for this species. Dunnocks will also readily inhabit residential areas, particularly once established.	Minor Positive

Species	Habitat Requirements ⁹	Species Account ¹⁰ (Counts Nov;Dec;Jan;Feb)	Nature Conservation Value ¹¹	Characterisation of Unmitigated Impact	Suggested Mitigation / Compensation / Enhancements / Comments	Residual Impact ¹²
House sparrow	Often associated with man, will avoid closed or dense vegetation, and except for seasonal foraging in corn fields and other crops, will usually avoid open terrain lacking in shrubs, trees, and other cover.	(5 colonies) Five house sparrow colonies averaging approximately 20 birds were recorded foraging in hedgerows, field margins and woodland edge on the site boundaries adjacent to existing residential areas: 1 colony in the NW site boundary associated with houses and gardens along Haverhill Rd and Bladon Way; 1 colony associated with the houses and gardens of Calford Green and up to 3 colonies on the SSE boundary associated with houses and gardens along Coupals Rd, Marcus Close and Shetland Way. A 6 th colony was also present at Great Wilsey Farm, just outside of the site boundary. County context: Common resident. Several sizeable flocks of 40-150 birds were reported in winter in Suffolk.	Local	Minor loss of foraging resource (hedgerow and field margin habitats).	House sparrows will readily habituate to new residential areas. The retention of boundary trees and hedgerows combined with new residential gardens and buildings will support the current colonies on the peripheries of the site and further increase winter foraging opportunities.	Minor Positive

Species	Habitat Requirements ⁹	Species Account ¹⁰ (Counts Nov;Dec;Jan;Feb)	Nature Conservation Value ¹¹	Characterisation of Unmitigated Impact	Suggested Mitigation / Compensation / Enhancements / Comments	Residual Impact ¹²
Bullfinch	Found throughout Britain and is most abundant in S England. Associated with thick woodland undergrowth, thickets, shrubby areas and thick hedges. Many of these habitats occur on lowland farmland. Also visits gardens and orchards.	(0;1;2;1) A male was foraging in Great Field Plantation in Dec; a presumed pair were contact calling along woodland edge adjacent to Forties Close on the southern site boundary in Jan, and a male was singing there in Feb. Not recorded in December. County context: Common resident. The species is widely reported from many localities, with the highest counts coming from west Suffolk. Winter counts ranging from six to eleven birds were returned from 14 different sites.	Local	Minor loss of foraging habitat (hedgerows).	Woodland, trees and hedgerows, valuable bullfinch foraging and roosting features, will be retained and enhanced across the application site. Any newly-planted native tree and hedgerow species should include bud-, berry- and fruit-bearing species.	Negligible

Species	Habitat Requirements ⁹	Species Account ¹⁰ (Counts Nov;Dec;Jan;Feb)	Nature Conservation Value ¹¹	Characterisation of Unmitigated Impact	Suggested Mitigation / Compensation / Enhancements / Comments	Residual Impact ¹²
Reed bunting	Traditionally a bird of wet places such as reedbeds, river margins, fens, marshes and coastal grazing marshes. More recently colonised drier habitats such as ditches, young forestry plantations and some farm crops, especially oilseed rape. In winter it feeds on agricultural land and other open areas, often away from water.	(1;1;2;0) Single birds in early winter were present with skylarks in an arable stubble field adjacent to Little Wrattling; a presumed pair were in a hedgerow west of Great Field Plantation in Jan. Not recorded in February. County context: Common resident and passage migrant. Counts of double-figure flocks were returned from 24 different county sites, including a county-record flock of 676 at Lackford Lakes in November.	Local	Loss of foraging (arable) and minor loss of roosting/foraging (hedgerow) habitats	Hedgerow sections will be retained where feasible and enhanced with native species planting. The stubble arable habitat in the north of the site will be lost to development. However, the low number of birds recorded strongly suggests that the site is not important for the local reed bunting population in winter.	Negligible

- 5.5 The proposed development will result in the total loss of arable habitat from the site. This has the potential to impact upon skylark in winter. This open-farmland specialist is likely to be displaced from the site post-development and residual **minor negative** impacts to the local skylark population are predicted.
- 5.6 Starling, dunnock and house sparrow are expected to benefit from the proposed GI within the Development Framework Plan, including the retention of many of the existing hedgerows and trees (important for all species), new woodland planting (dunnock and starling) and the creation of a 'Green Spine' through the centre of the site. This green space will link Haverhill Road in the north with Coupals Road in the south and will benefit all three species. In addition, all three species show varying degrees of habituation to residential areas, particularly as gardens mature, and an ability to thrive in urban environments. Therefore, **minor positive** residual impacts for starling, dunnock and house sparrow are predicted.
- 5.7 Herring gull, fieldfare, song thrush, redwing, bullfinch and reed bunting were all recorded in modest populations throughout the winter surveys. **Negligible** residual impacts are expected for the populations of all six species.
- 5.8 Proposed native species planting, along with the retention and enhancement where possible of existing vegetation, will provide further compensation for any winter habitat loss, provide connectivity with the wider landscape and support conservation and biodiversity enhancement.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 A total of 42 species were recorded within the site boundary during the surveys, including 16 'notable' species that are listed as Schedule 1, NERC or Suffolk LBAP priority species and/or feature on the BoCC Red and Amber lists.
- 6.2 Impacts of development were considered for the ten most vulnerable species recorded on site (i.e. notable species recorded in significant populations or the highest conservation concern species).
- 6.3 The proposed development is expected to result in minor negative residual impacts for skylark in winter. Negligible residual impacts are predicted in winter for herring gull, fieldfare, song thrush, redwing, bullfinch and reed bunting.
- 6.4 Other than in the short term, i.e. during the construction phase, the proposals and suggested compensation are expected to have a positive residual impact for three notable species currently using the site in winter; starling, dunnoek and house sparrow.
- 6.5 The site is considered to be of **Local** nature conservation value for the 16 notable species, and of **Site** conservation value for the remaining BoCC Green-listed and unlisted species.
- 6.6 The proposed GI detailed in Illustrative Masterplan Rev B (August 2015) aims to retain all of the woodland and the majority of hedgerows and trees on site; to enhance hedgerows with native species planting and to create new habitats including further woodland planting, SuDS facilities and grassland areas.
- 6.7 The site's existing woodland blocks, watercourse and hedgerow network will form the basis of a linear country park, linking green space and providing a green corridor through the site from northwest to southeast. Development will be set back from this green space, with trees, hedgerows and woodland used to define the park in place of built frontage wherever possible.
- 6.8 The retention of existing vegetation and provision of these new areas which will provide corridors of movement across the site, along with a new resource of residential gardens, will provide some compensation for the loss of suitable winter habitats for many of the recorded species. The GI will increase the degree of usable habitat across the site for a number of woodland edge and parkland species, provide connectivity with the wider landscape and support conservation and biodiversity enhancement. Overall, the developed site is expected to remain a valuable resource for local bird populations, with a shift in emphasis from birds of open-arable farmland to those more traditionally associated with urban edge environments. Furthermore, the GI proposals have the potential to attract new species associated and not currently recorded on site.

Appendix A: Great Wilsey Park, Haverhill Winter Bird Survey Results 2014-15

Survey	Date	Cloud cover (%)	Rain	Wind	Visibility
1	06.11.14	60	None	Calm	Good
2	08.12.14	80	None	Calm	Good
3	13.01.15	100	None	Gentle breeze	Good
4	19.02.15	100	Light drizzle	Light air	Good/fair

Species	Latin	Survey 1 06.11.14	Survey 2 08.12.14	Survey 3 13.01.15	Survey 4 19.02.15	Conservation Status
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		1	4	8	Not listed (Introduced)
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1	1		Green list
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	1	1	1	Green list
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		2	1		Amber list
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		1	1	1	Green list
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	2	12	65	94	Amber list
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		1			NERC Red list LBAP
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	86	115	60	74	Green list
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			2	5	Amber list
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			2		Green list
Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	1	2	1		Amber list
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1	1	1		Green list
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	4	14	6	7	Green list
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		2	1	2	Green list
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	14		5	2	Green list
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	12				Green list
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	4	6	14	7	Green list
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	2	2	1		Green list

Appendix A: Great Wilsey Park, Haverhill Winter Bird Survey Results 2014-15

Species	Latin	Survey 1 06.11.4	Survey 2 08.12.14	Survey 3 13.01.15	Survey 4 19.02.15	Conservation Status
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	12	22	17	14	Green list
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	9	10	8	13	Green list
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	6	4			NERC Red list LBAP
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	19	24	14	2	Green list
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	2		1		Green list
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			1	2	Green list
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	4	5	3	3	Green list
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	25	23	30	38	NERC Red list LBAP
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	8	19	16	7	Green list
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>			32		Schedule 1 Red list
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	3	2	2	NERC Red list LBAP
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	27	1	14		Schedule 1 Red list
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	3		2		Amber list
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	8	9	11	13	Green list
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	3	3	6	7	NERC Amber list LBAP
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	5 colonies				NERC Red list LBAP
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	2	3	2		Green list
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	6		12	16	Amber list
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	31	5	15	5	Green list
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	2		2		Green list
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	29	5	14	7	Green list
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>		20			Green list
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		1	2	1	NERC Amber list LBAP






Appendix A: Great Wilsey Park, Haverhill Winter Bird Survey Results 2014-15

Species	Latin	Survey 1 06.11.4	Survey 2 08.12.14	Survey 3 13.01.15	Survey 4 19.02.15	Conservation Status
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1	1	2		NERC Amber list LBAP
Total Species = 42						

Suffolk LBAP Bird Species

Barn Owl *Tyto alba**
 Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
 Dunnock *Prunella modularis*
 Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
 Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*
 Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
 Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*
 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
 Herring Gull subsp. *argenteus* *Larus argentatus* subsp. *argenteus*
 Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*
 Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*
 Curlew *Numenius arquata*
 Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
 Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*
 Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
 Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*
 Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*
 Swift *Apus apus**
 Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*
 Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*
 Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*
 Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*
 Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*
 Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*
 Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
 Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*
 Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
 Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*
 Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
 Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
 Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*
 Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*
 Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
 Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*
 Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

NB * = Suffolk BAP species (locally important – not national Priority Species)


-  Site Boundary
-  Hedgerow
-  Woodland
-  Schedule 1 Species
-  NERC / Suffolk LBAP Species

BoCC Red-listed Birds

- HG - HERRING GULL
- S - SKYLARK
- SG - STARLING
- FF - FIELDFARE
- ST - SONG THRUSH
- RE - REDWING
- HS - HOUSE SPARROW

BoCC Amber-listed Birds

- K - KESTREL
- BH - BLACK-HEADED GULL
- SD - STOCK DOVE
- G - GREEN WOODPECKER
- M - MISTLE THRUSH
- D - DUNNOCK
- MP - MEADOW PIPIT
- BF - BULLFINCH
- RB - REED BUNTING

 Hallam Land Management Ltd
 Great Wilsey Park, Haverhill
 WINTER BIRD SURVEY 2014/15:
 DISTRIBUTION OF NOTABLE SPECIES PLAN

Not to scale JEC/DAH 22.08.2015
 **Figure 1** 5055-E-01

