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Appendix 7.9  
Breeding Bird Survey Report

August 2019

Document Title	The Lanes Breeding Bird Survey Report
Prepared for	Taylor Wimpey North West / Homes England
Prepared by	TEP - Warrington
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Approved	Mike Walker

Amendment History					
Version	Date	Modified by	Check / Approved by	Reason(s) issue	Status
2.0	26/11/18	AWE	LP	Amended red line boundary	Superseded
3.0	01/03/19	LP	MW	Client amendments	Superseded
4.0	06/08/19	LP	MW	Updated site description	Issued

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G6900.007 Breeding Bird Survey Visit 1 20.04.2018

G6900.008 Breeding Bird Survey Visit 2 18.05.2018

G6900.009 Breeding Bird Survey Visit 3 15.06.2018

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Taylor Wimpey and Homes England are seeking to obtain planning permission for residential-led mixed-use development on land to the east of Penwortham Way known as 'The Lanes, Penwortham' (hereafter referred to as 'the site').
- 1.2 TEP was commissioned, in February 2018, to complete breeding bird surveys at the site.

### **Description of Site**

- 1.3 The central grid reference of the site is SD 53329 25884 and the location of the site is shown in Figure 1 below. Hatched areas within the red line site boundary in Figure 1 do not fall within the scope of the current planning application and these were not subject to surveys.
- 1.4 The site is irregular in shape and occupies approximately 53ha on land to the east of Penwortham Way to the south of the settlement of Penwortham.
- 1.5 The site is bound by Penwortham Way to the west, existing residential development south of Kingsfold Drive to the north, the West Coast mainline railway to the east and agricultural fields to the south.
- 1.6 The site comprises a mix of land uses including:
  - Agricultural land separated into a number of fields by fences, hedgerows and trees;
  - Pylon accommodation land;
  - Pylon corridor; and
  - Roads.
- 1.7 The site surrounds a number of residential dwellings and light industrial buildings which do not lie within the application boundary.

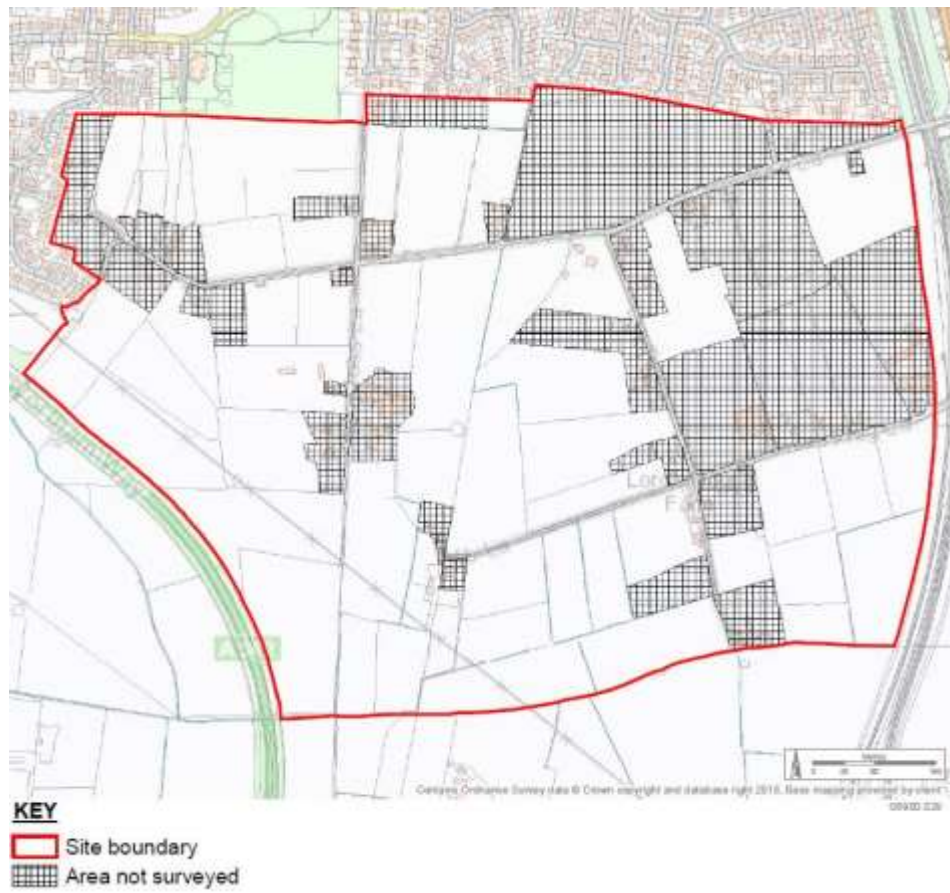


Figure 1: Site Plan. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018.

## 2.0 Methods

- 2.1 The survey was carried out applying methods based on the standard breeding bird survey and common bird census methods developed by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) (Gilbert et al. 1998).
- 2.2 Visits were carried out in the morning period, starting at least half an hour after dawn. Each survey visit was carried out approximately 4 weeks apart, over the period April to June, as shown in Table 1 below. Surveys were carried out by experienced ornithologists Mike Walker, Clare Gower and Damian Young.

*Table 1: Breeding Bird Survey Dates*

Visit	Date	Start Time	Finish Time
Visit 1	20/04/2018	06:45	11:20
Visit 2	18/05/2018	06:30	11:00
Visit 3	15/06/2018	06:10	10:25

- 2.3 Bird species and activity patterns were recorded and mapped using standard BTO symbology.
- 2.4 Three survey visits were undertaken using pre-determined transect routes to cover the survey area.
- 2.5 Bird species within the surrounding 100m were also recorded during the survey, as a proportion of the bird's foraging or nesting habitat is likely to be within the site.

## 3.0 Results

3.1 Desktop records of protected or notable bird species recorded within a 1km radius of the site were gathered from the Lancashire Environment Record Network (TEP Report Ref: 6900.007). Bird species classed as notable are those listed on any of the following:

- Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA1);
- Species of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006 (S41);
- Red and Amber listed Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC) species (Eaton et al. 2015) (BRd/ BAm);
- Bird species listed on the Lancashire Local Action Plan (LBAP).

3.2 There are historical records of 20 notable bird species that have been recorded within 1 km of the site. The birds identified within these records are:

- Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (LBAP);
- Dunnock *Prunella modularis* (LBAP);
- Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (BRd);
- House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (S41, BRd, LBAP);
- Lesser Redpoll *Carduelia cabaret* (S41, BRd);
- Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* (BRd);
- Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* (BRd, LBAP);
- Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (BRd, LBAP);
- Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (LBAP);
- Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (WCA1);
- Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* (BRd, LBAP);
- Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* (S41, BRd, LBAP);
- Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (S41, BRd);
- Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* (BRd);
- Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (LBAP);
- Willow Tit *Poecile montanus* (BRd, LBAP);
- Swift *Apus apus* (LBAP);
- Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (BRd, LBAP);
- Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (LBAP); and
- Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (LBAP, S41, BRd).

### Breeding Bird Survey

3.3 Counts of bird species recorded during the 2018 breeding bird season, including conservation and likely breeding status, are shown in Appendix A and in Drawings G6900.007 to G6900.009.

3.4 This breeding bird survey has been conducted to identify areas of importance for birds and any constraints concerning birds for the proposed residential development.

- 3.5 There are historic records of 20 notable species that have been recorded within 1km of the site. Of these birds, bullfinch, dunnock, house sparrow, mistle thrush, song thrush, starling, lapwing, linnets, heron, swift, herring gull, oystercatcher and skylark were recorded within the site and/or 100m survey buffer during the 2018 breeding bird survey.
- 3.6 A total of forty nine species were recorded within the site and 100m buffer during the breeding bird survey; thirty seven species in visit one, thirty four species in visit two and thirty eight species in visit three.
- 3.7 Incidental records of tawny owl have also been recorded during bat surveys undertaken by TEP during 2018 in the site. This species is likely to breed within the site and increases the overall number of bird species recorded during the 2018 breeding season to 50.
- 3.8 Seventeen bird species were confirmed to be breeding within the site and 100m buffer. These are blackbird, blue tit, carrion crow, chaffinch, collared dove, dunnock, goldcrest, goldfinch, great tit, house sparrow, magpie, mallard, mistle thrush, robin, starling, tree sparrow and woodpigeon.
- 3.9 Of the seventeen species confirmed to be breeding within the site and the 100m buffer, six are considered to be notable. Tree sparrow (BRd, S41), starling (BRd, S41), mistle thrush (BRd), mallard (BAm), house sparrow (BRd, S41) and dunnock (BAm, S41). All six species were confirmed to be nesting within the site.
- 3.10 Seven probable breeding species were recorded within the site and 100m buffer during the breeding bird survey.
- 3.11 Of the seven probable breeding species recorded, song thrush (two pairs - S41, BRd) is considered to be notable.



## 4.0 Interpretation and Conclusion

- 4.1 The 50 bird species recorded within the site and 100m buffer represents a medium species diversity, considering the large size of the site, with the majority of species recorded being commonplace and widespread. Six notable bird species were confirmed to be breeding: tree sparrow, starling, mistle thrush, mallard, house sparrow and dunnock. This was evidenced by the presence of juvenile birds during the survey or adults carrying food. All six of these notable species were confirmed to breed within the site, rather than within the 100m buffer. An additional three notable species probably nested within the site, including bullfinch, song thrush and swallow.
- 4.2 Fuller (1980) devised a method of classifying the ornithological interest of sites for conservation based on three site attributes: population size, rarity and diversity.
- 4.3 No significant breeding bird concentrations (i.e. 1% or more of the national breeding population) or nationally rare breeding bird species (i.e. between 1 and 1,000 breeding pairs) (Musgrove et al. 2013) were recorded during the survey.
- 4.4 The total number of confirmed, probable and possible breeding bird species recorded within a site also indicates its significance. Table 2 includes the breeding diversity criteria devised by Fuller.

*Table 2: Significance of the total number of breeding species recorded at a site*

Local	County	Regional	National
25-49	50-69	70-84	85+

- 4.5 Based on the above criteria, the 41 confirmed, probable and possible breeding bird species recorded within the site and 100m buffer indicate the site is of significance at the local level.
- 4.6 The large majority of the species recorded as potentially breeding within the site are associated with woodland, scrub and shrub habitats and were likely to be nesting within the large volume of hedges present across the site. This includes the notable species tree sparrow, mistle thrush, house sparrow and dunnock which were confirmed to breed within the site.
- 4.7 Some of the notable species such as house sparrow, starling and swallow were likely to be nesting in and adjacent to buildings, such as the farms and houses within the site, as well as the residential areas with gardens adjacent to the site.
- 4.8 The loss of trees, hedgerows and dense vegetation will result in a loss of nesting habitat for local bird populations and could lead to the destruction of disturbance and subsequent abandonment of nests, if present.
- 4.9 All wild birds and their nests and eggs are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended.

## 5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 The hedgerows, scrub and mature trees on site should be retained as far as possible in order to prevent the loss of nesting habitat.
- 5.2 If it is necessary to remove any trees and hedgerows within the site and at site borders, this would reduce the amount of breeding and nesting habitat available for these species and therefore should be retained wherever possible. If trees / hedgerows are to be removed, they should be replaced using a range of native species to create a varied vegetation structure and suit a wider range of breeding bird species. Fruiting tree and shrub species and/or species that are attractive to insects will also provide additional foraging resources for numerous bird species.
- 5.3 A nest box scheme undertaken as part of the development, including small nest boxes with holes and open fronted nest boxes, would provide additional nesting sites for a number of species such as blue tit and robin. As tree sparrow, house sparrow and starling were confirmed to be nesting within site and the surrounding area, specialised nest boxes for these species should be provided within the development.
- 5.4 It is recommended that all tree and vegetation clearance across site avoids the core breeding bird season, March to August inclusive; although bird nesting can take place outside this period. If vegetation clearance works are necessary during the core breeding bird season, or at any time when bird nesting is suspected, a nesting bird check of the affected area, with particular emphasis for ground nesting birds, by an ecologist is required immediately prior to the clearance works taking place. Extensive clearance of potential bird nesting habitat is not always practical and development programmes should take this constraint into account.
- 5.5 Reasonable Avoidance Measures, that are to be implemented during felling of trees and demolition of buildings with bat roost suitability (TEP Report Ref: 6900.006), will also be beneficial to roosting barn owl, if present.

## 6.0 References

Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Brown, A., Hearn, R., Lock, L., Musgrove, A., Noble, D., Stroud, D. and Gregory, R., 2015. Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. *British Birds*, 108, pp.708-746.

Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership. 2011. *Lowland Diversity Biodiversity Action Plan (Rother and Doe Lea Valleys)*.

Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D.W. and Evans, J., 1998. *Bird Monitoring Methods: a manual of techniques for key UK species*.

Fuller, R.J., 1980. A method for assessing the ornithological interest of sites for conservation. *Biological Conservation*, 17(3), pp.229-239.

Musgrove, A., Aebischer, N., Eaton, M., Hearn, R., Newson, S., Noble, D., Parsons, M., Risely, K. and Stroud, D., 2013. Population estimates of birds in Great Britain and the United Kingdom. *British Birds*, 106, pp.64-100.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2007. *Report on the Species and Habitat Review*.

## **APPENDIX A: Bird Count Data**

Species	Visit 1		Visit 2		Visit 3		Status	Likely Breeding Status (No. of pairs)	
	S	SBU	S	SBU	S	SBU		S	SBU
Blackbird	40	43	22	23	34	40		C(4) Pr(8)	C(5)Pr(12)
Blackcap	2	3	3	3	1	1		Pr(1)	Pr (1)
Black-Headed Gull	1	1	5	5	2	2	BAm	N	N
Blue Tit	27	34	10	12	16	19		C (2), Pr (3)	C(3)Pr(4)
Bullfinch				1	1	1	BAm S41	Po	Pr (1)
Buzzard	2	2	1	1	1	1		Po	Po
Canada Goose		2						N	N
Carrion Crow	12	16	1	3	7	7		C(1)	C(1) Pr (1)
Chaffinch	21	22	11	11	14	14		C(1) Pr(6)	C(1) Pr(6)
Chiffchaff	6	9	1	1	5	6		Pr(2)	Pr(3)
Coal Tit	2	2	2	2				Pr(1)	Pr(1)
Collard Dove	3	3	2	2	12	14		C(1)Pr(2)	
Coot			2	2				Po	Po
Cormorant					1	1		N	N
Curlew	1	1					BRd S41	N	N
Dunnock	12	13	8	9	16	18	BAm S41	C(1)Pr(5)	C(1)Pr(7)
Feral Pigeon	1	9	3	3				Po	Po

Species	Visit 1		Visit 2		Visit 3		Status	Likely Breeding Status (No. of pairs)	
	S	SBU	S	SBU	S	SBU		S	SBU
Goldcrest			2	2	3	3		C(1)Pr(1)	C(1)Pr(1)
Goldfinch	31	37	16	16	15	22		C(1)Pr(7)	C(1)Pr(7)
Great Tit	12	17	6	6	6	6		C(1)Pr(3)	C(1)Pr(3)
Greenfinch	3	3	2	2	1	1		Pr(1)	Pr(1)
Heron			1	1	1	1		N	N
Herring Gull	5	5					BRd S41	N	N
House Sparrow	16	16	36	36	16	19	BRd S41	C (6 col.)	C (9 col.)
House Martin					11	12	BAm	Po	Po
Jay					1	1		Po	Po
Jackdaw	10	10	1	2	2	4		Po	Po
Kestrel	1	1					BAm	Po	Po
Lapwing			3	3	1	1	BRd S41	Po	Po
Lesser Black-backed Gull	5	9	2	2	2	2	BAm	N	N
Linnet	24	24					BRd S41	Po	Po
Long-tailed Tit	1	1				1			Pr (1)
Magpie	11	11	2	8	14	15		C(1) Pr (3)	C(1) Pr (3)
Mallard	12	12	1	1	3	3	BAm	C(1)	C(1)

Species	Visit 1		Visit 2		Visit 3		Status	Likely Breeding Status (No. of pairs)	
	S	SBU	S	SBU	S	SBU		S	SBU
Mistle Thrush	2	2			2	2	BRd	C(1)	C(1)
Oystercatcher			1	1			BAm	Po	Po
Pheasant	2	2	1		2	4		Pr (1)	Pr (1)
Robin	14	15	16	18	9	9		C(2) Pr(8)	C(2) Pr(9)
Song Thrush	6	6	6	7	8	8	BRd S41	Pr(4)	Pr(6)
Sparrowhawk					1	1		Po	Po
Starling	41	41	61	62	117	118	BRd S41	C (1 col.)	C (1 col.) Pr (1 col.)
Stock Dove	3	3			2	2	BAm	Po	Po
Swallow	1	1	10	13	12	14		Pr(4)	Pr(4)
Swift					1	1	BAm	N	N
Tree Sparrow			4		2	5	BRd S41	C (1)	C (2)
Wheatear	1	1						N	N
Whitethroat	1	1	6	9	1	2		Pr (5)	Pr (7)
Woodpigeon	63	70	44	44	49	64		C (1) Pr (20)	C (1) Pr (20)
Wren	20	25	18	20	20	22		Pr(18)	Pr (20)
Total Species	36	37	33	34	38	38			

S: Site; SBU: Site including 100m buffer

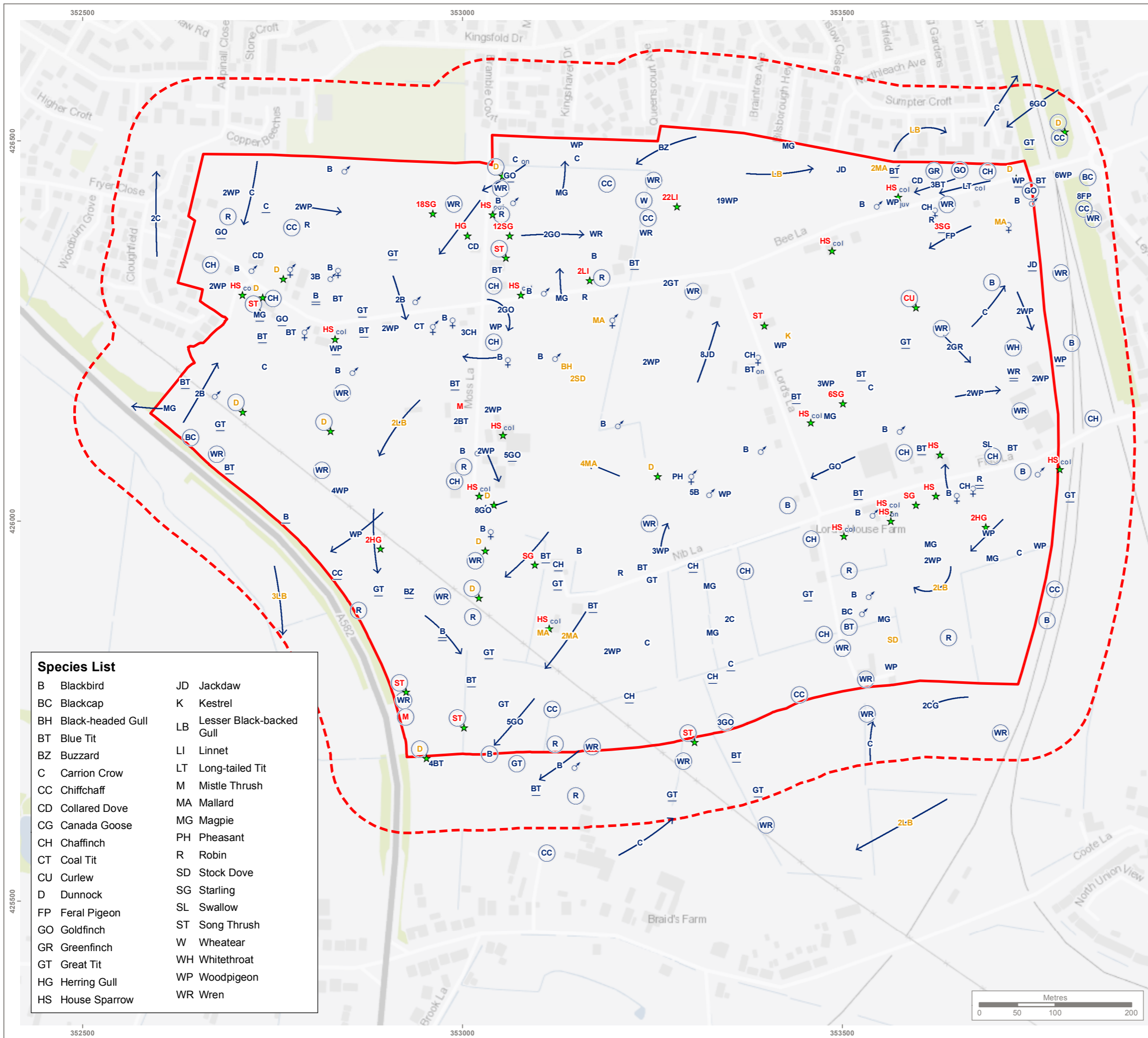
Status Key: WCA1 = Schedule 1, S41 = Section 41; BRd = BoCC Red List; BAm = BoCC Amber List; LBAP = Local Biodiversity Action Plan Species.

Likely Breeding Status Key: C = Confirmed, Pr = probably breeding within site, Po = possibly breeding within site, N = not breeding within site. Col.: breeding colony



## **DRAWINGS**

**G6900.007 Breeding Bird Survey Visit 1 20.04.2018**  
**G6900.008 Breeding Bird Survey Visit 2 18.05.2018**  
**G6900.009 Breeding Bird Survey Visit 3 15.06.2018**



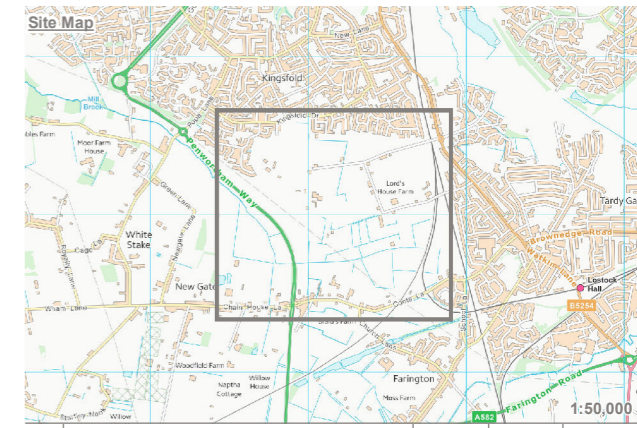
**KEY**

- Site boundary
- 100m offset from site boundary
- A bird repeatedly giving alarm-calls/other vocalisations
- A bird calling
- An adult bird sitting on eggs/brood
- A bird in song
- Colony
- ♀ Female
- ♂ Juvenile
- ♂♀ Male
- ♂♀ Male and female pair
- ★ Section 41 species
- Directional flight line

**Note**

- Red Red List species
- Amber Amber List species

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**Species List**

B Blackbird	JD Jackdaw
BC Blackcap	K Kestrel
BH Black-headed Gull	LB Lesser Black-backed Gull
BT Blue Tit	LI Linnet
BZ Buzzard	LT Long-tailed Tit
C Carrion Crow	M Mistle Thrush
CC Chiffchaff	MA Mallard
CD Collared Dove	MG Magpie
CG Canada Goose	PH Pheasant
CH Chaffinch	R Robin
CT Coal Tit	SD Stock Dove
CU Curlew	SG Starling
D Dunnock	SL Swallow
FP Feral Pigeon	ST Song Thrush
GO Goldfinch	W Wheatear
GT Great Tit	WH Whitethroat
HG Herring Gull	WP Woodpigeon
HS House Sparrow	WR Wren

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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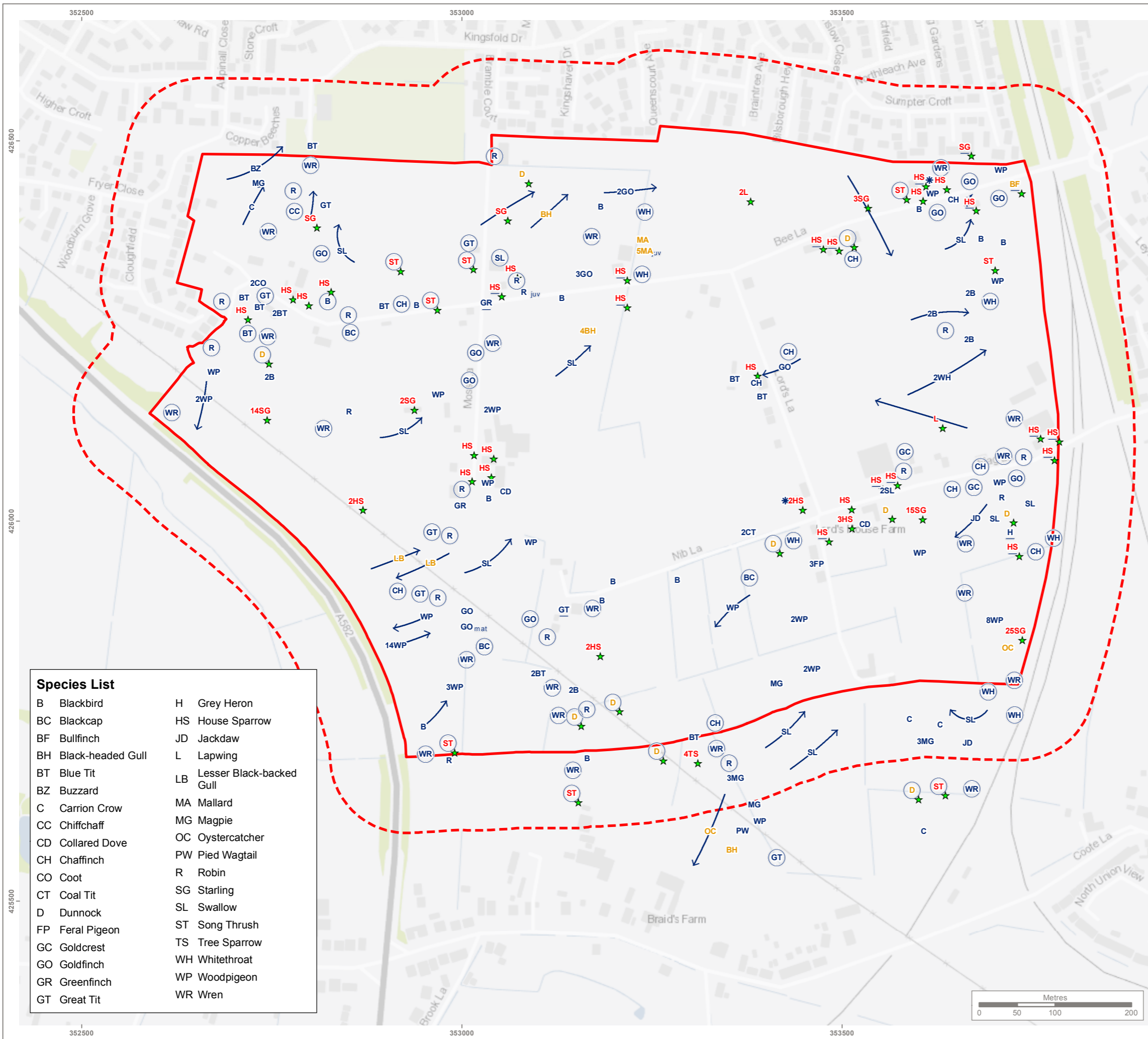
Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH  
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project  
**The Lanes, Penwortham**

Title  
**Breeding Bird Survey  
Visit 1 - 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Drawing Number  
**G6900.007**

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AP	LJ	MW	1:5,000 @ A3	28/07/2018



**KEY**

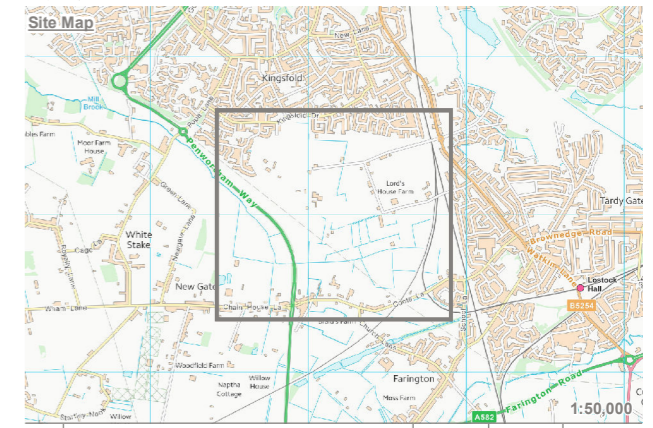
- Site boundary
- 100m offset from site boundary
- A bird calling
- mat A bird carrying nesting material
- \* A nest occupied with eggs/brood
- A bird in song
- juv Juvenile
- ♂ ♀ Male and female pair
- ★ Section 41 species
- Directional flight line

**Note**

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**Species List**

B Blackbird	H Grey Heron
BC Blackcap	HS House Sparrow
BF Bullfinch	JD Jackdaw
BH Black-headed Gull	L Lapwing
BT Blue Tit	LB Lesser Black-backed Gull
BZ Buzzard	MA Mallard
C Carrion Crow	MG Magpie
CC Chiffchaff	OC Oystercatcher
CD Collared Dove	PW Pied Wagtail
CH Chaffinch	R Robin
CO Coot	SG Starling
CT Coal Tit	SL Swallow
D Dunnock	ST Song Thrush
FP Feral Pigeon	TS Tree Sparrow
GC Goldcrest	WH Whitethroat
GO Goldfinch	WP Woodpigeon
GR Greenfinch	WR Wren
GT Great Tit	

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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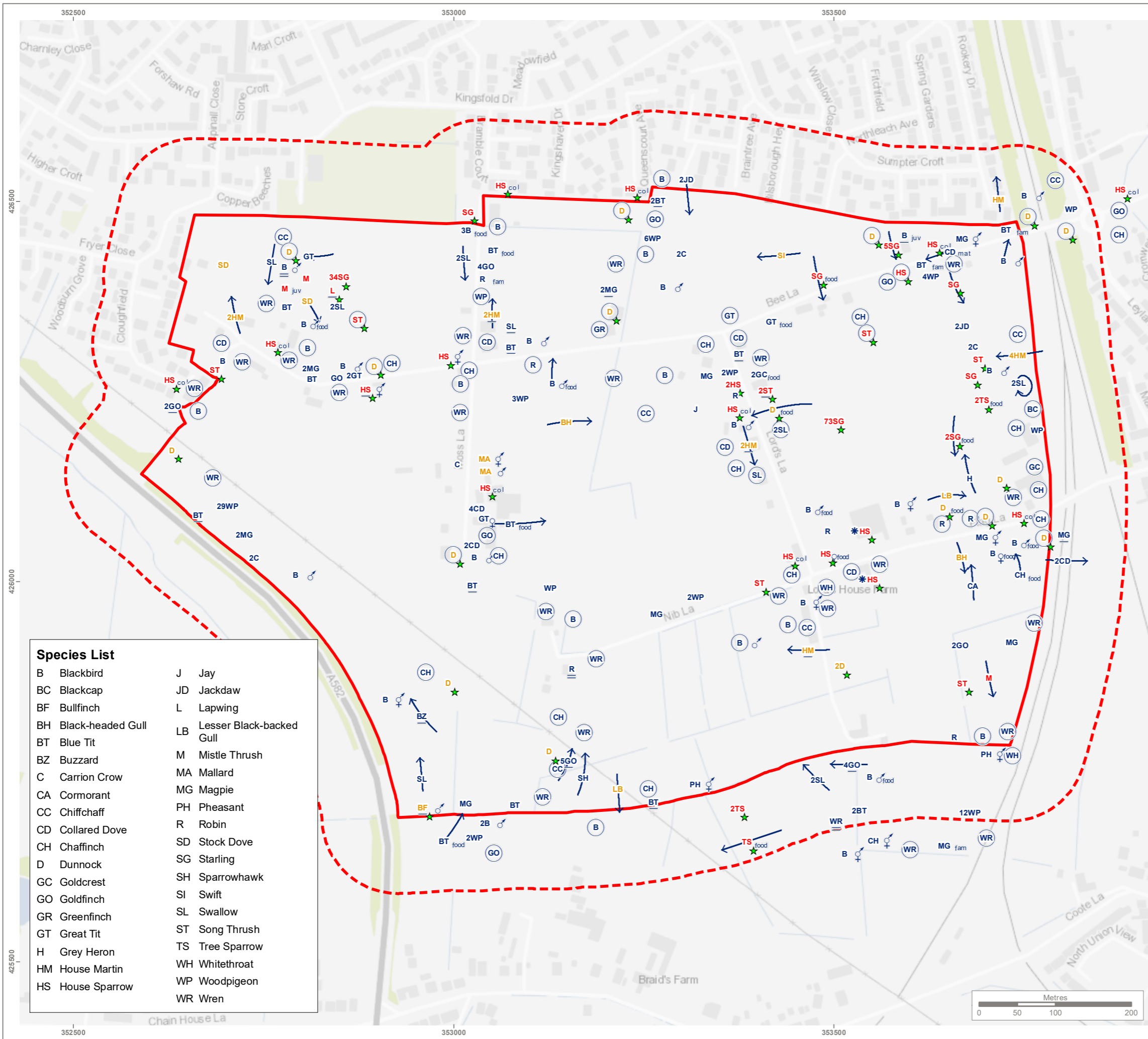
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Project  
**The Lanes, Penwortham**

Title  
**Breeding Bird Survey  
Visit 2 - 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Drawing Number  
**G6900.008**

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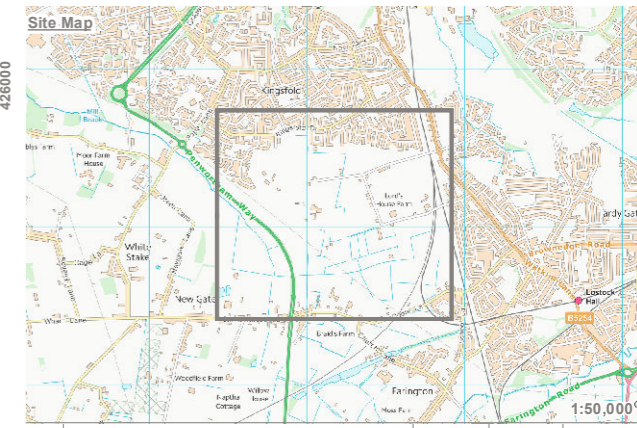
**KEY**

- Site boundary
- 100m offset from site boundary
- = A bird repeatedly giving alarm-calls/other vocalisations
- A bird calling
- food A bird carrying food
- mat A bird carrying nesting material
- \* A nest occupied with eggs/brood
- A bird in song
- col Colony
- fam Family group of birds
- ♀ Female
- juv Juvenile
- ♂ Male
- ♂♀ Male and female pair
- ★ Section 41 species
- Directional flight line

**Note**

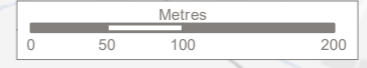
- Red Red List species
- Amber Amber List species

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**Species List**

- |                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| B Blackbird          | J Jay                       |
| BC Blackcap          | JD Jackdaw                  |
| BF Bullfinch         | L Lapwing                   |
| BH Black-headed Gull | LB Lesser Black-backed Gull |
| BT Blue Tit          | M Mistle Thrush             |
| BZ Buzzard           | MA Mallard                  |
| C Carrion Crow       | MG Magpie                   |
| CA Cormorant         | PH Pheasant                 |
| CC Chiffchaff        | R Robin                     |
| CD Collared Dove     | SD Stock Dove               |
| CH Chaffinch         | SG Starling                 |
| D Dunnock            | SH Sparrowhawk              |
| GC Goldcrest         | SI Swift                    |
| GO Goldfinch         | SL Swallow                  |
| GR Greenfinch        | ST Song Thrush              |
| GT Great Tit         | TS Tree Sparrow             |
| H Grey Heron         | WH Whitethroat              |
| HM House Martin      | WP Woodpigeon               |
| HS House Sparrow     | WR Wren                     |



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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Project  
**The Lanes, Penwortham**

Title  
**Breeding Bird Survey  
 Visit 3 - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Drawing Number  
**G6900.009**

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AP	LJ	MW	1:5,000 @ A3	30/08/2018



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