Fferm Solar Larnog

Environmental Statement

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Issue Sheet

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Document Title

Volume IV, Appendix 7C: Wintering Birds Survey Report

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1. Executive Summary

1.1.1. WSP UK Ltd was commissioned by Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru to provide ecological support for the proposed Larnog Solar Farm (the 'Proposed Development') to the south of Cosmeston (British National Grid: ST 17739 68268); hereafter referred to as the 'Site.'

1.1.2. A Wintering Bird Survey was required as a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the Site (**Appendix 7A: PEA 2026** of the Environmental Statement (ES)) highlighted the presence of several bird species and potential habitats with suitability for wintering birds. Target species included those listed as qualifying features of nearby internationally and nationally protected sites such as the Severn Estuary Ramsar/Special Protection Area (SPA). Eurasian skylark *Alauda avensis* was considered a probable breeding species on Site following the February 2026 Wintering Bird Survey visit. Data from February and March 2026 surveys was therefore used to estimate the number and location of likely breeding territories (the Eurasian skylark is a Section 7 Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (as amended) listed species) in suitable habitats e.g., arable land and grassland.

1.1.3. The Survey Area comprised mainly arable fields allocated for solar farm development in the west and centre of the Site. In the east, it included a field within the Site boundary to be retained for Eurasian skylark mitigation, alongside other fields within the wider land ownership outside the Proposed Development. For clarity in this report, these sections are referred to as the Western Extent, Central Extent and Eastern Extent.

1.1.4. The Site was considered to be of no more than site level importance for wintering birds although habitat such as arable crops and hedgerow/woodland field boundaries were likely to offer valuable food resources for both resident and migrant wintering birds.

1.1.5. The survey found no evidence that qualifying species from the nearby Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar sites were using the fields within the Survey Area. The land in the Survey Area was therefore not considered Functionally Linked Land (FLL) in relation to the SPA or Ramsar sites.

1.1.6. No further surveys are required for wintering birds or Eurasian skylark based on current survey effort. The following avoidance, mitigation, compensation, and enhancement measures are however recommended:

- Retain woodland, hedgerows, and trees to preserve foraging and roosting habitat for wintering birds;
- Avoid clearing vegetation during the main nesting season (March–August inclusive or whenever birds are nesting) to prevent damage or destruction of nests, including those of ground-nesting Eurasian skylark;

- Avoid night-time working and/or light spill from additional lighting (if required) to reduce disturbance to nocturnal or roosting birds;
- Offset breeding habitat loss for Eurasian skylark by planting spring cereals in retained arable land within and (where possible) adjacent to the Survey Area; and/or creating skylark plots in winter cereal fields;
- Manage hedgerows and tree lines to improve nesting conditions for Eurasian skylark;
- Manage hedgerows to avoid excessive height that may offer vantage points for avian predators of ground nesting birds such as Eurasian skylark;
- Enhance habitats by retaining weedy overwinter stubble, creating tussocky grass margins, implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM), supplementary planting of native tree and hedgerow species to improve species-poor hedgerows/field boundaries; and
- Install western barn owl *Tyto alba* nest box and replace a degraded tawny owl Strix aluco box.

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1.1.7. WSP has provided this report solely for the use of the recipient and accepts no liability to any third parties or any other party using or reviewing the report or any part thereof. WSP makes no warranties or guarantees, actual or implied, in relation to this report, or the ultimate commercial, technical, economic, or financial effect on the project to which it relates, and bears no responsibility or liability related to its use other than as set out within the scope of the contract under which it was supplied.

2. Introduction

2.1. Project Background

2.1.1. WSP UK Ltd (hereafter referred to as 'WSP') was commissioned by Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru (the 'Applicant') to provide ecological support for the proposed Larnog Solar Farm (the 'Proposed Development') to the south of Cosmeston (British National Grid Reference: ST 17739 68268); hereafter referred to as the 'Site' (shown as the Site Boundary on Figure 1).

2.1.2. The Site predominantly comprised arable fields separated by hedgerow, tree line, and woodland field boundaries. Situated just west of the Severn Estuary, the western and central extents of the Site were bounded to the north by the B4267 Lavernock Road. Cosmeston Lakes, freshwater bodies formed from flooded limestone quarries, were to the north of the Site.

2.1.3. The 'Survey Area is shown on **Figure 1** and includes the Site and surrounding land.' For clarity in this report, the Survey Area has been further divided into three sections: the Western Extent, Central Extent and Eastern ExtentFigure 1.

2.1.4. This report forms part of the ES which is being submitted as part of the Pre-Application Process.

2.2. Proposed Development

2.2.1. The Proposed Development includes the following:

- Ground mounted Solar Photovoltaic (PV) modules with a total installed capacity of approximately 35 MW. The PV modules will be mounted on fixed-tilt support structures facing south;
- Project Substation compound, which will include substation, switching and control equipment, storage areas, vehicular parking, material laydown areas, perimeter fencing, lighting, security infrastructure and associated ancillary equipment. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) would also be included within the Project Substation compound;
- Balance of Solar System (BoSS) which comprises: inverters, transformers and switchgear;
- Ancillary infrastructure works including underground cables, boundary treatments, security equipment, weather stations, landscaping, biodiversity enhancement, access tracks, earthworks, surface water management, and any other works identified as necessary to enable the development;
- Permanent diversion of Public Footpath L1/5/2; and

- Associated safety and security infrastructure required for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

2.2.2. The design of the Proposed Development has also included a 10 m offset to be incorporated around solar arrays and field boundaries with habitats maintained as 'wildlife corridors' with some planting of wildflower strips; incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) where reasonable; and long-term management of hedgerows e.g., rotational cutting.

2.2.3. Proposed measures for ecological enhancement and habitat management to support biodiversity include:

- Existing field boundaries/species-poor hedgerows on land within the Site boundary where solar arrays are not planned to be installed to be planted and improved for diversity with native species (hedgerow and trees) e.g., hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymen*um, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, oak *Quercus*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, field maple *Acer campestre*, silver birch *Betula pendula* and crab apple *Malus sylvestris*;
- Enhancement of Lavernock Point East Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) habitat in collaboration with Vale of Glamorgan Council (VoGC) e.g., creation of maintenance of habitat piles/refugia. Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) management and scrub control, creation of beetle banks, grassland management/long-term creation of neutral grassland;
- Installation of bat and bird boxes on retained trees and/or integrated into the fabric of substation building;
- Substation lighting to be sensitively designed and 'wildlife-friendly';
- Creation of bee banks, habitat piles and refugia; and
- Mowing regime to be implemented for semi-improved grassland parcel with management of adjacent scrub to ensure presence of a habitat mosaic;

2.2.4. Other potential measures/works include:

- Animal grazing within fields with solar panels, diversifying farming practices and improving soil health; and
- Creation of a circular footpath and recreational path.

2.3. Brief and Objectives

2.3.1. The requirement for a Wintering Bird Survey followed completion of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the Site (**Appendix 7A): PEA 2026** which identified several bird species records and habitats with potential importance for wintering birds.

2.3.2. The objectives of the survey were:

- To provide baseline information on the wintering bird community at the Site, with particular;
- reference to whether legally Protected and/or Notable species are present;
- To provide baseline information regarding the type and level of use of the Site by species that form the qualifying interest of nearby Special Protection Area (SPAs) and Ramsar sites, and therefore whether habitats within the Site would be deemed as Functionally Linked Land (FLL) to the SPA/Ramsar sites;
- To provide recommendations to enable compliance with relevant nature conservation legislation and planning policy; and
- To identify the need for avoidance, mitigation, compensation or enhancement measures and/or further ornithological surveys.

2.3.3. Additionally, as breeding Eurasian skylark *Alauda avensis* was likely to be present on Site it was determined that data from the February and March 2026 Wintering Bird Survey visits would be used:

- To estimate the number of breeding territories for Section 7 (S7)[1] listed Eurasian skylark in suitable habitat on Site e.g., arable land and grassland.

2.3.4. This report details the method and results of the survey. Where applicable, recommendations for further surveys and/or mitigation/enhancement are made in order to minimise and mitigate for effects on wintering bird assemblages and likely breeding Eurasian skylark within the Site.

2.3.5. A complete list of species recorded during the survey and their scientific names is provided in **Annex B**. Relevant UK legislation and planning policy and other conservation status and guidance documents pertaining to birds in the UK and Wales are provided in **Annex C**.

2.3.6. For the purpose of this report, nomenclature follows the International Ornithological Congress (IOC).[2]

2.4. Ecological Background

Field Survey

2.4.1. A PEA of the Site carried out in February 2025 and an updated PEA in June 2026 recorded habitat such as scrub, woodland, hedgerow, grassland and arable land suitable to support a range of common and widespread bird species. The Site was also

[1] Species listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (as amended), that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in Wales.
[2] International Ornithological Congress (IOC) World Bird List version 15.2 (2025). Gill, F., Donsker, D. and Rasmussen, P. Available online at: https://www.worldbirdnames.org/new/

identified as suitable to support foraging and roosting waders, which were qualifying features of the Severn Estuary Special Protection Area/Ramsar (see Table 1).

Desk Study

2.4.2. The PEA included an ecological desk study undertaken in February 2025 (**Appendix 7A: PEA 2026**). Natural Resources Wales (NRW) online datasets were reviewed as part of this desk study to identify nature conservation designations comprising SPAs/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar sites within 2 km of the Site.

2.4.3. Records of Protected and/or Notable species and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves (NNR), and Local Nature Reserves (LNR) within 2 km of the Site were also requested from South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) as part of the desk study.

2.4.4. Internationally designated sites, Severn Estuary SPA and Severn Estuary Ramsar, and the nationally designated Severn Estuary SSSI all included designations for ornithological interest features and are located to the east of the Site boundary. In addition, the Severn Estuary was designated as a SAC site.

2.4.5. Nationally designated sites within 2 km of particular interest for birds included Sully Island SSSI, designated for ornithological interest features; and Cosmeston Lakes Country Park LNR which included Cosmeston Lakes SSSI known to support a range of both common and uncommon resident, migratory, and passage (spring/autumn migration) bird species[3]. Penarth Coast SSSI included Lavernock Point a well-known observation point for migratory birds. See Figure 2 and Figure 3 for locations and Table 1 for descriptions of the ornithological designatory features/ornithological interests of internationally and nationally important sites within 2 km.

Table 1 - Statutory designated sites with ornithological designatory features and/or ornithological interest within 2 km of the Site

Site name	Designation	Size (hectares (ha))	Approximate distance and direction from Site	Description of designatory ornithological features and/or ornithological interest
Statutory designated sites of international importance:				
Severn Estuary (Wales)	SPA	24487.91	160 m east	The Severn Estuary SPA supports the following qualifying features: • Internationally important wintering population of Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; • Over 20,000 waterfowl in winter, including internationally important numbers of European white-

[3] Glamorgan Bird Club (2024) Glamorgan Bird Club East Glamorgan Bird Report No.63 - 2024

Site name	Designation	Size (hectares (ha))	Approximate distance and direction from Site	Description of designatory ornithological features and/or ornithological interest
				fronted goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, gadwall *Anas strepera*, dunlin *Calidris alpina*, and redshank *Tringa totanus*; • Nationally important wintering populations of wigeon *Anas penelope,* teal *Anas crecca*, pintail *Anas acuta*, pochard *Aythya ferina*, tufted duck *Aythya fuliglla*, ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, curlew *Numenius arquata,* whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* and spotted redshank *Tringa erythropus*; • Nationally important numbers of passage (spring/autumn migration) species ringed plover, dunlin, whimbrel and redshank; and • Nationally important breeding population of lesser black-backed gulls *Larus fuscus* on the island of Steep Holm and Flat Holm in the estuary.
Severn Estuary (Wales)	Ramsar	24662.98	160 m east	The Severn Estuary qualifies under Criterion 1 of the Ramsar convention due to its immense tidal range which affects both the physical and biological communities present. **See Severn Estuary SPA description for other qualifying ornithological features/notable ornithological features.**
Statutory designated sites of national importance:				
Penarth Coast	SSSI	92.7	Adjacent to the Site, South	Site includes Lavernock Point a well known observation point for migratory birds.
Severn Estuary	SSSI	15950	160 m east	The Severn Estuary SSSI forms part of a larger area which includes the Upper Severn Estuary SSSI and Bridgwater Bay SSSI. The larger area of the Severn Estuary is designated a SPA under the 'EEC Wild Birds Directive' and a Wetland of

Site name	Designation	Size (hectares (ha))	Approximate distance and direction from Site	Description of designatory ornithological features and/or ornithological interest
				International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. The Severn Estuary SSSI supports: • *Most of the estuary's internationally important curlew and redshank populations;* • *Most of the estuary's nationally important ringed plover and grey plover population;* • *Internationally important wintering population of dunlin - identified as single most important wintering ground for dunlin in Britain;* • *Other waders which occur in significant numbers* comprising • *common* snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, knot *Calidris canutus*, whimbrel and turnstone *Arenaria interpres*; and • Nationally important numbers of shelduck (late winter/early spring) following partial dispersal from moulting grounds in Bridgewater Bay; and significant numbers of wigeon.
Cosmeston Lakes County Park/Cosmeston Lakes	LNR/SSSI	104.8/25.6	13 m north/142 m north	Habitats include coastal grassland, reedbeds, meadows, lakes (Cosmeston Lakes SSSI) and ponds, woodland, rocky shores, dunes, cliffs, farmland and commons. Site known to support a range of common and uncommon resident, migratory and passage migrant bird species (GBC, 2024).
Sully Island	SSSI	11.5	1 km southwest	Sully Island provides the main roost site for waders feeding in winter in the Taff/Ely Estuary. The roost holds up to 100%, of the dunlin, grey plover and ringed plover of the Taff/Ely and over 50% of the redshank and knot. The Taff-Sully system is a nationally important site for

Site name	Designation	Size (hectares (ha))	Approximate distance and direction from Site	Description of designatory ornithological features and/or ornithological interest
				dunlin and redshank and also constitutes an important part of the wider Severn Estuary which is an internationally important wintering area for redshank, knot and dunlin.

2.4.6. The desk study returned 901 records for 54 distinct Protected and/or Notable bird species within 2 km of the Site. Fourteen species were listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (as amended) 1981 and 37 were listed as priority species in accordance with S7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (as per S7 list at time of the initial PEA in 2025).

2.4.7. Most Protected and/or Notable bird species returned via data searches were also listed on the Red and Amber lists for Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 4[4] (BoCCW4) (Johnstone *et al*., 2022) and/or the Red and Amber list for Birds of Conservation Concern 5 [5](BoCC5) in the UK (Stanbury *et al*., 2021).

2.4.8. Species records deemed relevant to the Site included those for Schedule 1 western barn owl *Tyto alba* and red kite *Milvus milvus*, with the PEA identifying habitat potentially suitable for their breeding. Schedule 1 Cettis' warbler *Cettia cetti* was heard on Site during the Phase 1 habitat field survey.

2.4.9. Arable land identified during the PEA was likely suitable to support ground nesting birds such as S7 (and UK Red listed and Wales Amber listed) species Eurasian skylark. Woodland with berry bearing species such as hawthorn and elder *Sambucus nigra* was likely to support an assemblage of notable wintering birds such redwing *Turdus iliacus* and fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*.

[4] Johnstone, I.G., Hughes, J., Balmer, D.E., Brenchley, A., Facey, R.J., Lindley, P.J., Noble, D.G. & Taylor, R.C. 2022. Birds of Conservation Concern Wales 4: the population status of birds in Wales. Milvus

[5] Stanbury, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I (2021) The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114: pp723-747.

3. Method

3.1. Wintering Bird Survey

3.1.1. To determine how wintering birds use the Site and nearby areas, a field-by-field survey was undertaken of land areas designated for development in the Western and Central Extent. In the east, the survey included a field within the Site boundary to be retained for Eurasian skylark mitigation, alongside other fields within the wider land ownership outside the Proposed Development.

3.1.2. A transect route was devised following the results of the PEA survey (**Appendix 7A: PEA 2026**) and a scoping visit to the Survey Area on 24 November 2025. The transect route was designed to prioritise areas most favourable for notable wintering birds and was followed once per month between November 2025 and March 2026. Survey visits were spaced as evenly as possible across this period and each survey visit was completed on a single day, enabling the capture of a snapshot record of the number and distribution of wintering birds present each month.

3.1.3. The methods used were based on those provided by the Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2025)[6] for a non-breeding walkover survey on the Bird Survey Guidelines website [Accessed November 2025].

3.1.4. Transect surveys were conducted during daylight hours in suitable weather conditions, avoiding heavy rain, strong or cold winds and/or poor visibility. This minimised variation in bird activity levels due to weather conditions as far as possible. Poor ground conditions (lying snow, frost or following period of very wet weather) were not avoided as these help to provide a representative assessment of the Site usage across the winter.

3.1.5. Using survey maps and the defined transect routes, surveyors recorded the approximate location of all observed or heard species directly onto survey maps recording the following details:

- Species (using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) 2-letter codes);
- Number of individuals;
- Locations of records; and
- Activity (foraging, roosting etc.).

3.1.6. Following the PEA desk study and field survey (**Appendix 7A: PEA 2026**), species considered likely to be present within habitat adjacent to and/or within the Site and considered at most risk of disturbance from the Proposed Development were targeted

[6] Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2025). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, https://birdsurveyguidelines.org

during the Wintering Bird Survey. Species included those listed as qualifying features of internationally and nationally protected sites (i.e. Severn Estuary Ramsar/SPA/SSSI).

3.1.7. Target species were as follows:

- Waterfowl and waders: all wildfowl and wader species (except feral species e.g., Canada goose *Branta canadensis*);
- Species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive;
- Species listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); and
- Gull species (e.g. European herring gull *Larus argentatus* and lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*).

3.1.8. The following have been identified as secondary species for the purpose of survey recording:

- Species on the revised Section 7 (S7) list of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (as amended March 2026); and
- Species included on the Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 4 (BoCCW4) (Johnstone, I.G., *et al*., 2022) and/or Birds of Conservation Concern in the UK 5 (BoCC5) (Stanbury, A. *et al*., 2021) Red and Amber lists.

3.1.9. The principal results of the transect surveys are summarised in this report.

3.1.10. Survey visit conditions are detailed in **Annex D**. The Site, Survey Area and transect locations are shown in Figure 1 in **Annex A**. Wintering Bird Survey results are shown in Figure 4, Figure 5, Figure 6, Figure 7 and Figure 8 in **Annex A**. BTO 2-letter species codes for target species are listed in **Annex E**.

Estimating Eurasian Skylark Breeding Territories

3.1.11. Eurasian skylark is most often detected during early spring and summer (BTO [Accessed March 2026]), particularly when individuals engage in song-flights above their nesting territories. Egg-laying usually commences between late April and May[7], with males commonly performing song-flights above territories as early as February and March.

3.1.12. Eurasian skylark territories (i.e. singing males) were systematically mapped in suitable breeding habitat, such as open, treeless arable farmland, during the Wintering Bird Survey conducted in February and March 2026. The observed number of singing males was subsequently compared with established density benchmarks for Eurasian skylark, which vary according to habitat and crop type as detailed in 'The importance of cereal fields to breeding and wintering Skylarks *Alauda arvensis* in the UK'[8] (Donald, P.F. and

[7] Ferguson-Lees, J., Castell, R. and David Ian Leech (2011). A field guide to monitoring nests. Thetford British Trust For Ornithology.
[8] Donald, P.F. & Vickery, J.A. (2000). The importance of cereal fields to breeding and wintering Skylarks Alauda arvensis in the UK. Ecology and Conservation of Lowland Farmland Birds, p140-150.

Vickery, J.A., 2000). Grassland and arable areas typically support densities ranging from 0.05 to 0.1 territories per hectare (ha), whereas set-aside land can accommodate higher densities, reaching up to 0.3 territories per ha. See Table 2.

Table 2 - Territory densities (territories per ha) of Skylarks in different crop types, the percentage of farmland made up by each crop type and the percentage of total Skylark population found in each crop type.

Crop	Density	% area	% of population
England & Wales			
Cereals	0.108	30	40
Improved grass	0.054	47	31
Set-aside	0.296	3	10
Rough grazing	0.059	10	7
Root crops	0.119	3	5
Brassicas	0.095	4	4
Legumes	0.129	2	3

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) (1998), Skylark data from BTO National Breeding Skylark Survey (Browne et al. 2000) (Donald, P.F. and Vickery, J.A., 2000).

3.1.13. Following consultation between the Applicant and the Vale of Glamorgan County Ecologist, and the client, it was determined that after evaluating both the mapped breeding territories on Site and the typical Eurasian skylark population densities across suitable habitats (Donald, P.F. and Vickery, J.A., 2000), the higher territory count would be adopted as the basis for developing appropriate recommendations and mitigation measures for the species.

3.1.14. Eurasian skylark breeding territory survey results are shown in Figure 9 in **Annex A**.

Importance For Species

3.1.15. The CIEEM guidance for Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)[9] (CIEEM, 2024) assesses the importance of ecological features within a geographical context. When determining the importance of a species population or assemblage consideration should be given to its significance on an international, national, regional and/or local scale.

3.1.16. For this report, the level of importance for species was informed by the nature conservation status and/or conservation concern of each species and its status/concern as described within the most recently published local Glamorgan Bird Report No. 63 (GBC, 2024). The recording area for the Glamorgan Bird Report included all of the Survey Area.

[9] CIEEM (2024) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine version 1.3. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

3.1.17. An assessment of conservation status/concern in combination with the importance of a species/species assemblage, together with spatial analysis of wintering locations across the Site enabled evaluation of the likely impact of the development.

3.2. Surveyors

3.2.1. All surveys were conducted by WSP ornithologists who possess extensive field experience in Wales, comprehensive knowledge of best practice survey methodologies, and proven expertise in monitoring bird activity and distribution for proposed developments.

3.3. Notes and Limitations

3.3.1. Some bird species are more difficult to detect due to their shy or secretive nature and therefore may have gone undetected by this survey. As a constraint applicable to all bird surveys, this is not considered to be a significant limitation of this study.

3.3.2. During the last hour of the February 2026 survey, light rain may have led to fewer singing Eurasian skylarks at the Western Extent. Arable habitat in this area was considered sub-optimal due to the presence of telegraph poles and wires in two out of three fields, and sections where the crop struggled to grow. Improved weather during the March 2026 survey visit however prompted an early start at the Western Extent to maximise the chance of hearing singing Eurasian skylark. Individuals were subsequently heard and observed at the Western Extent and the brief spell of poor weather during the February survey is not considered to have affected the overall results of this report.

3.3.3. It should be noted that the observation of singing Eurasian skylark above territories suggests a likelihood of breeding activity although it does not serve as definitive evidence of breeding. Additionally, although habitat may initially be appropriate for breeding Eurasian skylark, when they establish their territories, ongoing management practices and crop type might make it unsuitable during the nesting period.

3.3.4. Any ecological survey can only identify what was present on site at the time it was conducted, and habitat use by species can change over time. The length of time survey data remains valid will depend on a case-by-case basis, but it is considered that if development or proposed works do not commence within 18 months of the date of the survey in this report, an update may be required (CIEEM, 2019).[10]

[10] CIEEM (2019) Advice Note: On the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

4. Results

4.1.1. A total of 44 species of bird were recorded during the wintering bird survey (see **Annex B** for full list) including nine target species and 21 secondary species (as defined in **Section 2.1**). Counts of birds flying high over the Survey Area have not been included.

4.1.2. A full list of target bird species recorded during the Wintering Bird Survey is presented in Table 3 along with each species relative conservation concern, statutory and non-statutory designation and monthly peak counts. Peak counts comprised the maximum count of individuals from a single bird species observed at any one time and not the total of individuals of a single species counted across the Site to avoid potentially misleading counts.

Table 3 - Summary of all target and secondary species recorded during wintering bird survey

Common name	Scientific name	WCA Schedule 1	S7 species (Wales)	UK Red List	UK Amber List	Wales Red List	Wales Amber List	Peak count November 2025	Peak count December 2025	Peak count January 2026	Peak count February 2026	Peak count March 2026
Black-headed gull*	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	4
Coal tit	*Periparus ater*	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	1	-	-	-
Common kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	1	1	-	-	1
Common linnet	*Linaria cannabina*	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	1	-	-	-
Common reed bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	3	-	1
Common snipe*	*Gallinago gallinago*	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Common starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	10	15	3	40	3
Common wood pigeon	*Columba palumbus*	-	-	-	✓	-	-	15	14	5	14	29
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	1	2	2	1	2
Eurasian chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	100	50	5	18	3
Eurasian magpie	*Pica pica*	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	4	9	11	8	2
Eurasian oystercatcher*	*Haematopus ostralegus*	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	1	-	-

Common name	Scientific name	WCA Schedule 1	S7 species (Wales)	UK Red List	UK Amber List	Wales Red List	Wales Amber List	Peak count November 2025	Peak count December 2025	Peak count January 2026	Peak count February 2026	Peak count March 2026
Eurasian skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	26	20	2	16	2
Eurasian sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Eurasian woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	(1)
Eurasian wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	-	-	-	✓	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
European green woodpecker	*Picus viridis*	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	1	-	-	-
European greenfinch	*Chloris chloris*	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	1
European herring gull*	*Larus argentatus*	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	4	10	10	12	31
Fieldfare*	*Turdus pilaris*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	30	-	-	-	-
Goldcrest	*Regulus regulus*	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	1	1	2	1	-
Grey heron	*Ardea cinerea*	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	1	-	-	-
House sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	20	20	20	15	10
Lesser black-backed gull*	*Larus fuscus*	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	1	-	4	3	4
Meadow pipit	*Anthus pratensis*	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	25	50	20	6	4

Common name	Scientific name	WCA Schedule 1	S7 species (Wales)	UK Red List	UK Amber List	Wales Red List	Wales Amber List	Peak count November 2025	Peak count December 2025	Peak count January 2026	Peak count February 2026	Peak count March 2026
Mistle thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	1	6	2	2	-
Peregrine falcon*	*Falco peregrinus*	✓	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	1	-
Redwing*	*Turdus iliacus*	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	30	40	50	6	-
Song thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
Water rail	*Rallus aquaticus*	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	1	1	1	1

5. Key Species Summary

5.1. Wintering Bird Survey

5.1.1. Nine target species and 21 secondary species were recorded during the Wintering Bird Survey.

5.1.2. No wildfowl were recorded during the survey.

5.1.3. Three gull species were observed: European herring gull (up to a peak of 31 in March 2026, present on every visit), lesser black-backed gull (peak of four, absent only in December 2025), and black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* (recorded once in March 2026 with four individuals). Only one bird, a first winter herring gull, was seen using the Site, loafing in a field at the Eastern Extent. All other records were of gulls flying over or adjacent to the Site. The Proposed Development is not expected to have any significant effects on gull species.

5.1.4. Eurasian oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* was recorded on a single occasion (heard only) flying over coastal habitat adjacent to the Site. No individuals were recorded utilising the Site. The Proposed Development is not expected to have any significant effect on Eurasian oystercatcher.

5.1.5. Common wood pigeon *Columba palumbus* was observed during every survey visit with a maximum count of 29 recorded in March 2026. Most sightings were of individuals or groups in tree and hedge lines in the Survey Area, frequently flying between field boundaries and sometimes foraging in fields. Although BoCC5 Amber listed, common wood pigeon is BoCCW4 Green listed and a common resident breeder in East Glamorgan (GBC, 2024). Eurasian magpie *Pica pica*, a S7 species, BoCC5 Green listed and BoCCW4 Amber listed species and also a common resident breeder in East Glamorgan (GBC, 2024) was recorded in similar habitat. The Site is not regarded as a significant wintering habitat for common wood pigeon or Eurasian magpie. Many hedgerows, woodlands, and tree lines will be retained or enhanced as part of the Proposed Development.

5.1.6. BoCC5 and BoCCW4 Red-listed and S7 species common starling *Sturnus vulgaris* was observed during each survey visit, although numbers remained relatively low (maximum count of 40 individuals). Sightings primarily involved groups flying over, or perching on telegraph wires within the Survey Area. Similarly, mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus,* S7, BoCC5 Red and BoCCW4 Amber listed was recorded on every occasion with a peak count of six individuals. While the Site likely offers foraging opportunities for both species it is not considered a significant wintering habitat for either common starling or mistle thrush.

5.1.7. Eurasian wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, common reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, goldcrest *Regulus regulus* and song thrush Turdus philomelos were mainly found in hedgerows and woodlands to be retained or improved by the Proposed Development in or near the Site. House sparrow *Passer domesticus* was noted in hedgerows alongside Fort Road close to Lavernock Point Holiday Estate just outside the Site boundary. House sparrow commonly nests in buildings near humans and was likely closely linked to Lavernock Point Holiday Estate and its surrounding hedgerows which will remain unaffected by the Proposed Development. The Site is not considered an important wintering habitat for secondary species Eurasian wren, common reed bunting, dunnock, goldcrest, song thrush and house sparrow and the Proposed Development is unlikely to have any significantly effects on them.

5.1.8. BoCCW4 Amber listed and S7 species water rail *Rallus aquaticus* was both heard and seen in a small reedbed next to a woodland copse north of Fort Road between December 2025 and February 2026. In March 2026, likely the same individual was observed on a pool in a flooded section of the same woodland. The Proposed Development is not anticipated to significantly affect the wintering habitat for water rail as current plans retain areas where the species was found.

5.1.9. A summary of the results for the remaining target and secondary species recorded is summarised in the following section. The Site is not regarded as a significant wintering habitat for secondary species that were observed on a single survey visit, as detailed in Table 3.

5.2. Target Species

Waders

Common Snipe

5.2.1. Common snipe *Gallinago gallinago* was observed only once (January 2026), having been flushed from the stubble of an arable crop in damp edges of a field at the Eastern Extent of the Site.

5.2.2. Common snipe is a S7 species and is BoCCW4 Amber listed due to being included in the European Red List of Birds[11] (ERLOB) (2021) and a moderate long-term decline (>25% but <50%) in its breeding range (Johnstone, I.G. et.al., 2022). In addition to these reasons, it is included on the BoCC5 Amber list due to a moderate decline (>25% but <50%) over 25 years to the UK wintering population (Stanbury *et al*. 2021).

[11] BirdLife International (2021) European Red List of Birds. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

5.2.3. In East Glamorgan common snipe is described as a common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasionally in summer at suitable breeding sites (GBC, 2024).

Eurasian Woodcock

5.2.4. Eurasian woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*, S7, BoCC5 and BoCCW4 Red listed species was not directly observed on Site. Evidence of its presence in the form of beak marks (holes) and footprints in soft mud and field edges at the Eastern Extent were noted during March 2026. Due to its crepuscular nature, being rarely active in daytime unless flushed from cover (e.g., from leaf litter on a woodland floor), it is unknown how many birds were utilising the Site for foraging at night although considered unlikely to be present in significant numbers due to relatively limited day-time resting places (e.g., woodland) at the Eastern Extent. No evidence of Eurasian woodcock was observed in either the Western Extent or Central Extent and no birds were flushed by surveyors from field boundary hedgerows within the Survey Area.

5.2.5. Eurasian woodcock is an uncommon resident, chiefly in upland woodlands, but also at coastal sites in winter, especially during hard weather, the number of 'roding' (males displaying in flight) birds has declined in recent years.

Raptors

Peregrine Falcon

5.2.6. Peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus* was observed during all except the last March 2026 survey visit. Most sightings were of between one to three birds sitting in a field near the coast at the Eastern Extent. During the February 2026 visit a pair were seen displaying i.e. flying in tandem over the field and then heading off east towards the coast.

5.2.7. Peregrine falcon is a Schedule 1 listed species described as a locally common resident breeder that continues to suffer persecution in East Glamorgan (GBC, 2024).

Winter Thrushes

Fieldfare

5.2.8. Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* was noted during the November 2025 visit only (peak count 30), flying from woodland bordering a large arable field west of St Mary's Well Bay Road at the Western Extent.

5.2.9. Fieldfare is a Schedule 1, S7, and BoCC5 Red listed species due to a severe decline in the UK breeding population (Stanbury *et al*. 2021) and a BoCCW4 Amber listed non-breeding species. The UK wintering population of fieldfare was estimated at 720,000

birds in 1981-84[12] (Woodward *et al*. 2020). The species is described as a common winter visitor and passage migrant in East Glamorgan (GBC, 2024).

Redwing

5.2.10. Redwing was observed during all survey visits except in March 2026. Numbers gradually increased from November 2025 to January 2026, reaching a maximum count of 50 individuals, before declining in February with a peak count of six. Most observations involved groups located within, or travelling between, hedgerows, trees, and woodland boundaries, particularly at the Western Extent of the Site.

5.2.11. Redwing is a Schedule 1 BoCC5 Amber listed species due to a moderate breeding range decline (>25% but <50%) between the breeding bird atlases in 1988–91 and 2007–11 and between 1968–71 and 2007–11 as measured by the calculated change in the number of occupied 10 km squares.

5.2.12. Redwing is described as a common winter visitor and passage migrant in East Glamorgan (GBC, 2024).

5.3. Secondary Species

Raptors

Common Kestrel

5.3.1. Common kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* was recorded on three out of five survey visits. The majority of sightings involved individuals flying over fields at both the Eastern Extent and Central Extent of the Site. Additionally, one individual was observed actively hunting by hovering above an area of longer grassland at the Eastern Extent.

5.3.2. Common kestrel is a S7 species, BoCC5 Amber listed and BoCCW4 Red listed. Between 1995 and 2023, the breeding population in the UK decreased by 37%[13] (Heywood, J.J.N. *et al*., 2024). Over a 25-year period, an even greater decline of 50% was seen in Wales in its breeding population (Johnstone, I.G. *et.al*., 2022).

5.3.3. Common kestrel is described as a common resident breeder in East Glamorgan (GBC, 2024).

[12] Woodward, I., Aebischer, N., Burnell, D., Eaton, M., Frost, T., Hall, C., Stroud, D.A. & Noble, D. (2020). Population estimates of birds in Great Britain and the United Kingdom. British Birds 113: 69–104.
[13] Heywood, J.J.N., Massimino, D., Baker, L., Balmer, D.E., Brighton, C.H., Kelly, L.A., Noble, D.G., Pearce-Higgins, J.W., White, D.M., Workman, E. & Wotton, S. (2026). The Breeding Bird Survey 2025. BTO Research Report 802. British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford.

Farmland Species

Eurasian Skylark

5.3.4. Eurasian skylark was recorded during all survey visits with birds mostly foraging amongst the stubble of arable fields throughout the Site. During the February and March 2026 survey visits Eurasian skylark was recorded performing territorial song flights.

5.3.5. Eurasian skylark is a S7 species and BoCC5 Red listed due to a severe long-term decline of >50% in the UK breeding population (Stanbury *et al*. 2021). For this reason, it is also BoCCW4 Amber listed.

5.3.6. In East Glamorgan, Eurasian skylark is described as a common resident breeder, winter visitor and passage migrant (GBC, 2024).

Meadow Pipit

5.3.7. Meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*, like Eurasian skylark, was recorded foraging amongst the stubble of arable fields throughout the Site.

5.3.8. Meadow pipit is a S7 and BoCCW4 Red listed species due to at least a 50% long-term decline in its breeding population (Johnstone, I.G. et.al., 2022) and is BoCC5 Amber listed due to long-term moderate decline (>25% but <50%) of its breeding population in the UK (Stanbury *et al*. 2021).

5.3.9. In East Glamorgan, meadow pipit is noted as a common resident breeder, winter visitor and passage migrant (GBC, 2024).

Chaffinch

5.3.10. Eurasian chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* was observed around hedge, tree and woodland boundaries within the Site. A flock of Eurasian chaffinch was also noted foraging in arable fields at the Western Extent.

5.3.11. Eurasian chaffinch is a S7 and BoCCW4 Amber listed species due to a moderate decline (>25% but <50%) over 25 years in the breeding population (Johnstone, I.G. *et.al*., 2022).

5.3.12. In East Glamorgan, Eurasian chaffinch is a common resident breeder, winter visitor and passage migrant.

Non-Target Species

5.3.13. A flock of approximately 40 pied wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii* (sub-species of white wagtail) was noted foraging amongst the stubble of an arable field west of Saint Mary's Well Bay Road at the Western Extent of the Site during November 2025.

Eurasian Skylark Breeding Territories

5.3.14. Extensive, open, arable fields of cereal crops at the Eastern Extent of the Site were most favourable for breeding Eurasian skylark.

5.3.15. During the February 2026 survey visit, six singing Eurasian skylarks were recorded across four fields with suitable breeding habitat (cereal arable crop) at the Eastern Extent of the Site. An additional three Eurasian skylarks exhibiting song-flight behaviour were observed in fields located centrally within the Site.

5.3.16. In the March 2026 survey visit, six singing Eurasian skylarks were again noted in the same four Eastern Extent fields as those identified in February 2026. Three individuals were recorded performing song-flights in the same fields as those noted previously in the central area, while a further two singing Eurasian skylarks were observed in arable fields at the Western Extent of the Site.

5.3.17. Fields within the Site where Eurasian skylark was absent were less favourable due to their smaller, enclosed nature and/or proximity to tall hedgerows and/or tree lines. Eurasian skylarks nest away from elevated features that could provide predators, such as corvids or raptors, with a vantage point for targeting ground-nesting birds. The presence of telegraph poles and wires intersecting fields at the Western Extent are likely less favourable for the same reason, as they could also serve as vantage points for avian predators of Eurasian skylark (see Table 4 Land parcels 1 and 2 which included telegraph poles and wires and Figure 9). Only brief song was noted in Land parcel 1 during March 2026.

Table 4 - Density and population estimate of Eurasian skylark territories in suitable arable crop habitat on Site

Land parcel No.	Approximate size of suitable arable crop land parcel in hectares (ha)	Number of Eurasian skylark territories recorded during field survey – February 2026	Number of Eurasian skylark territories recorded during field survey – March 2026	Estimated number of Eurasian skylark territories based on Browne *et al.* 2000 (see Table 2)
Western Extent				
1	3.94	0	1*	0.39
2	5.96	0	0	0.60
3	3.70	0	1	0.37
Central Extent				
4	5.09	1	1	0.51
5	3.88	1**	0	
6	4.21	1	1	0.42

Land parcel No.	Approximate size of suitable arable crop land parcel in hectares (ha)	Number of Eurasian skylark territories recorded during field survey – February 2026	Number of Eurasian skylark territories recorded during field survey – March 2026	Estimated number of Eurasian skylark territories based on Browne *et al.* 2000 (see Table 2)
7	3.53	1	1	0.35
Eastern Extent				
8	2.44	1	1	0.24
9	5.60	2	2	0.56
10	5.53	2	2	0.55
11	4.18	1	1	0.41

*Only brief singing heard/observed

**Near boundary – possibly drifted over from elsewhere.

5.3.18. During the Wintering Bird Survey visits conducted at the Site in February and March 2026, the recorded density of Eurasian skylark territories exceeded the estimated territorial density metric established by Browne *et al*. (2000) for suitable arable (cereals) habitat (see Table 2 and Table 4) . Accordingly, the field survey data will be used to inform the assessment of potential effects on Eurasian skylark populations and to guide recommendations for Eurasian skylark within this report.

5.3.19. A fill list of all species recorded during the Wintering Bird Survey including non-target species is detailed in **Annex B**.

6. Discussion and Evaluation

6.1.1. The survey provided no evidence that qualifying species from the nearby Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar sites were using the fields on Site to any significant degree on a regular basis. No wildfowl and no qualifying wader species were noted. In view of this, the land on Site is not considered to provide FLL for qualifying Severn Estuary SPA/Ramsar species.

6.2. Potential Effects on Wintering Target Species

6.2.1. This section covers the potential effects on wintering birds and breeding Eurasian skylarks as assessed following the Wintering Bird Survey (November 2025 to March 2026).

Waders

Common Snipe and Eurasian Woodcock

6.2.2. The Severn Estuary SSSI is known to support significant numbers of common snipe however only a single individual was flushed from arable stubble in January 2026. In March 2026, feeding activity by Eurasian woodcock was evidenced by beak and footprint impressions observed in soft mud along the field edge. While the exact number of individuals foraging in the area remains undetermined the quantity of impressions did not suggest a significant population presence.

6.2.3. Improved management of retained land and 10 m field margins near solar arrays could enhance winter habitats for wintering common snipe and Eurasian woodcock by offering additional high-quality foraging resources.

6.2.4. The Proposed Development is not anticipated to result in any significant effects to wintering populations of common snipe and Eurasian woodcock.

Raptors

Peregrine Falcon

6.2.5. Peregrine falcon was observed on all Wintering Bird Survey visits except the final one in March 2026, consistently occupying an elevated section of a field located at the Eastern Extent. Although this area appears to be a preferred roosting site for the species, the Site itself is not considered critical for wintering peregrine falcon as nearby coastal cliffs are also likely to provide suitable roosting habitat.

6.2.6. The Proposed Development is not anticipated to result in any significant effects to wintering peregrine falcon. The field where roosting peregrine falcons were observed is not located within the Site boundary under current proposals, thereby continuing to provide suitable roosting habitat.

Winter Thrushes

Fieldfare and Redwing

6.2.7. Hedgerow, tree and woodland boundaries supporting berry-bearing species on Site, particularly at the Western Extent, provided foraging habitat for fieldfare, recorded just once in November 2025, and redwing which was recorded during all except the final visit in March 2026.

6.2.8. Overall, both redwing and fieldfare were recorded in relatively low numbers although larger flocks (400-550 fieldfare and 1,000 redwing) had previously been recorded during late October/early November from nearby Lavernock Point in 2024 (GBC, 2024). It is therefore possible that winter thrushes were more numerous before the Wintering Bird Survey began in late November although numbers of both fieldfare and redwing can fluctuate sharply between years depending on the berry crops close to their breeding grounds When berry crops are poor, larger numbers of these winter migrant thrushes occur in Britain and Ireland (BTO, [Accessed April 2026]).

6.2.9. While the Site was not considered of key significance for fieldfare and redwing, coastal hedgerows, woodland and tree boundaries supporting species such as hawthorn and holly, are likely to provide valuable food sources for newly arrived migrant wintering thrushes prior to their dispersal into the wider landscape.

6.2.10. Under current plans, existing field boundaries and species-poor hedgerows will be retained, enhanced, and supplemented with native hedgerow and tree species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, and crab apple. These improvements are likely to provide additional food resources for wintering redwing and fieldfare.

6.2.11. The Proposed Development is not anticipated to have any significant effects on the wintering populations of fieldfare and redwing.

6.3. Secondary Species

Common Kestrel

6.3.1. Common kestrel was recorded during three out of the five Wintering Bird Survey visits with one individual seen actively hunting over rough grassland at the Eastern Extent.

6.3.2. The offset land surrounding solar arrays and field boundaries included as part of the Proposed Development to serve as wildlife corridors could provide extra foraging habitat for common kestrel. In addition, the solar panels may act as new vantage points from which to observe prey species.

6.3.3. The Proposed Development is not anticipated to have any significant effects on the wintering population of common kestrel on Site.

Farmland Species

Eurasian Skylark and Meadow Pipit

6.3.4. Moderate-sized flocks of wintering farmland species meadow pipit (with a peak count of 50 in December 2025) and Eurasian skylark (with a peak count of 26 in November 2025) were primarily observed foraging amongst arable stubble on Site. During November and December 2025, both meadow pipit and Eurasian skylark were recorded in higher numbers than in subsequent survey visits and it was therefore considered probable that these birds were also feeding outside the Site. Although the Site is not regarded as of key significance for wintering Eurasian skylark and meadow pipit, arable stubble likely provides a valuable food source for commuting and foraging wintering flocks.

6.3.5. Under current plans the field within the Site boundary at the Eastern Extent (see **Figure 9** Land Parcel 11) will be retained for Eurasian skylark mitigation, while central and western fields are proposed to support a solar farm with a 10 m offset around solar arrays and field boundaries. This offset land has the potential to serve as a wildlife corridor featuring some wildflower strips that could provide food for wintering Eurasian skylarks and meadow pipits, depending on plant species selected.

6.3.6. No significant effects to wintering populations of meadow pipit and Eurasian skylark on Site are anticipated by the Proposed Development.

Chaffinch

6.3.7. Moderate-sized flocks of wintering chaffinch were recorded at the Western Extent during November and December 2025 with peak counts of 100 and 50 being recorded respectively. Flocks were mostly recorded commuting and foraging between and within hedgerow and woodland field boundaries throughout the Site with one flock noted foraging amongst arable stubble.

6.3.8. Under current plans existing field boundaries and hedgerows will be retained and enhanced through the addition of native species. A 10 m buffer around solar arrays and field edges is proposed to create a wildlife corridor with the inclusion of some wildflower strips. These improvements could offer important food sources for wintering chaffinch depending on plant selection.

6.3.9. The Proposed Development is not anticipated to have any significant effects on wintering populations of chaffinch.

6.4. Potential Effects on Breeding Eurasian Skylark

6.4.1. A total of 11 singing Eurasian skylarks were noted during March 2026, 10 of which were considered to represent potential breeding territories. Records comprised six at the Eastern Extent; three at the Central Extent; and two at the Western Extent.

6.4.2. Eurasian skylarks favour large, open fields and avoid tall structures such as woodland edges, tall hedgerow trees and manmade structures such as telegraph poles and wires where avian predators may perch. They nest on the ground in vegetation 20–50 cm high that enables easy access to the ground. To sustain their population Eurasian skylark need two or three successful breeding attempts between April and August. While spring cereals offer good nesting sites, winter wheat is usually too dense for more than one brood. Silage fields attract Eurasian skylark, but frequent cutting reduces breeding success. Unimproved, grazed grasslands can support high densities of nesting Eurasian skylark. (RSPB online [Accessed April 2026]).

6.4.3. According to the current plans, arable fields located at the Eastern Extent (refer to **Figure 9** Land Parcels 8-10) will be outside the Site boundary. While Land Parcel 11 will be retained for Eurasian skylark mitigation purposes. The most recently published East Glamorgan Bird Report (GBC, 2024) did not record evidence of Eurasian skylark breeding at the Site although this does not necessarily confirm absence of breeding there. Since arable habitat is expected to remain at the Eastern Extent the Proposed Development is not anticipated to have any significant effects on its use by Eurasian skylark in this area.

6.4.4. In the Central Extent of the Site (see **Figure 9** Land Parcels 4-7) arable habitat was generally considered less favourable for Eurasian skylark. Land parcel 4 had been reseeded with grass and during the January survey visit had been temporarily cordoned off for sheep grazing. Woodland, including mature trees bordered its northern edge and other tall trees were scattered in the hedgerow at its western edge, adjacent to Saint Mary's Well Bay Road. Further small parcels of woodland and mature trees extended from the corners of Land Parcel 4 at its southern edge. A Eurasian skylark was heard singing above Land parcel 5 in February 2026. The exact location of its territory was however unclear as it was spotted high above the field boundary and may have drifted over from neighbouring fields. Arable habitat in Land Parcel 5 was less suitable for Eurasian skylark. Two tall structures in the form of mature trees were present within its southern extent; woodland with mature trees edged its northeast corner; further tall trees were within the northern hedgerow boundary; and ground sloped downward from west to east. All these features provided numerous observation points for avian predators and no singing Eurasian skylark were observed within Land Parcel 5 on the subsequent visit in March 2026.

6.4.5. Large, mature trees and small parcels of woodland bordered the north/northwest edge of Land Parcel 6 and intersected a part of the arable land at its Eastern Extent. Land Parcel 6 sloped gently upwards from southeast to northwest. The southern field section was considered less suitable for breeding Eurasian skylark due to being located at the bottom of a slope and being edged by tall trees that could attract predatory birds. The northeast section of the field was unsuitable for breeding Eurasian skylark due to being

mostly enclosed and divided by a line of mature trees extending northwest from its southeast boundary toward the centre. Eurasian skylark was heard and observed singing at the centre of the field during the February and March 2026 survey visits.

6.4.6. Land Parcel 7 was considered to offer limited suitable habitat for breeding Eurasian skylark due to being edged by tall trees and/or woodland on its southeast and northwest boundaries. This parcel supported a single singing individual during the March 2026 visit.

6.4.7. Eurasian skylarks were heard singing in four central land parcels (Figure 9 Land Parcels 4-7). Given the sub-optimal habitat and the likelihood that the bird observed in Land Parcel 5 in February 2026 came from nearby fields, it is estimated that no more than three breeding territories were likely present. Solar panels, due to be installed as part of the Proposed Development at the Central Extent of the Site, therefore have the potential to negatively affect breeding Eurasian skylark in this area.

6.4.8. Habitat at the Western Extent (Figure 9 Land Parcels 1-3) was considered less favourable for breeding Eurasian skylark due to similar reasons as the Central Extent. Land Parcels 2 and 3 sloped gently upwards from east to west. Woodland and mature, tall trees and/or tall hedgerow surrounded most of all three land parcels. Telegraph poles and wires were present in Land Parcels 1 and 2. Common buzzard Buteo buteo was seen perching on trees and flying over Land Parcels 2 and 3 at the Western Extent on several occasions. A pair of buzzards were also seen perching on mature trees at the Western Extent of Land Parcel 3 in March 2026.

6.4.9. Increased disturbance due to agricultural activities was likely in Land Parcel 2. In the southeast corner, substantial haystacks bordered woodland adjacent to the field's farm gate entrance. Some flooded and low-lying areas within Land Parcel 2 were devoid of vegetation or had only sparse plant growth where the arable crop had failed to flourish.

6.4.10. Only brief song was recorded in Land Parcel 1 in March 2026, no singing Eurasian skylark were recorded in Land Parcel 2 and a single individual was recorded at the centre of Land Parcel 3 at the Western Extent of the Site.

6.4.11. Due to the sub-optimal habitat, tall perching structures for avian predators, and only brief song activity in Land Parcel 1, the arable area at the Western Extent was considered likely suitable to support no more than a single Eurasian skylark breeding territory under present conditions. There is therefore some limited potential to negatively affect breeding Eurasian skylark at the Western Extent of the Site.

6.4.12. Arable habitat at the Eastern Extent (including fields not currently supporting breeding territories) and potentially land west and beyond the Survey Area at the Western Extent could be enhanced to better support breeding Eurasian skylarks, subject to appropriate management strategies and crop selection. Effective management of hedgerows and

tree lines, specifically by preventing excessive height, could reduce their suitability for avian predators that may monitor ground-nesting Eurasian skylarks from such vantage points. Given that only a limited number of Eurasian skylark breeding territories (one at the Western Extent and a maximum of three at the Central Extent) are expected to be adversely affected by the Proposed Development, implementing such measures should improve the suitability and carrying capacity of these arable fields for supporting breeding populations of Eurasian skylark. This approach will help mitigate the loss of nesting habitat resulting from solar panel installations on the Site.

7. Recommendations

7.1. Overview

7.1.1. The following section sets out measures which are recommended to avoid, mitigate and compensate for effects on the wintering bird population and any potential breeding Eurasian skylark on Site as a result of the Proposed Development. These measures aim to enable compliance with the legislation described in **Annex C** and to encourage completion of the Proposed Development in line with planning policy and other guidance wherever possible. Opportunities for enhancement in association with the Proposed Development have also been identified and targeted towards species listed as of conservation concern.

7.2. Avoidance Measures

Wintering Birds

7.2.1. Where possible woodland, hedgerow and tree boundaries, particularly those with berry-bearing species, should be retained to protect valuable food sources for wintering bird species.

Potential Breeding Eurasian Skylark (And Other Breeding Birds)

7.2.2. Where clearance of vegetation is required, it should avoid the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) to avoid damage or destruction of nests.

7.2.3. If unavoidable and work needs to be carried out within the breeding bird season (i.e., March to August inclusive) a check for active bird nests should be carried out by a suitably experienced ecologist prior to any work commencing.

7.2.4. If an active bird nest is discovered work should cease and an exclusion zone, of a distance specified by an appropriately experienced ecologist, will be set up around the nest. No work must be carried out within this exclusion zone until all young have fledged, or the nest is no longer active.

7.2.5. It should be noted that some species such as common wood pigeon which habitually nest in trees and hedgerows can be found nesting all year round.

Nocturnal Bird Species

7.2.6. Avoidance of night-working to minimise disturbance to nocturnal and/or roosting bird species on Site.

7.2.7. During construction and operation lighting should be kept to a minimum and (if required) should be directional to ensure minimisation of light spill onto habitats used by nocturnal and/or roosting species within the Site.

7.3. Mitigation and Compensation Measures

7.3.1. To mitigate for the loss of potential breeding habitat for Eurasian skylark in the Western Extent and Central Extent of the Site the following is recommended:

- Plant spring cereals to improve and enhance nesting habitat and increase the carrying capacity for breeding Eurasian skylark on retained land within the Site boundary at the Eastern Extent and, if possible, in land west and beyond the Survey Area at the Western Extent; and/or

7.3.2. Alternatively:

- Create Eurasian skylark plots in winter cereal fields e.g. winter wheat which generally grows too tall and thick to enable more than a single brood, if spring crops are not a major feature of crop rotations. Plots should be created by switching off or lifting up the drill to create undrilled patches at least 3 m wide and with a total area of at least 16 m² (e.g. 4 m by 4 m). If machinery cannot be switched off or moved, drill the field as usual and apply a total herbicide to the plot before December. This approach, however, is generally less effective as it may result in less vegetation and fewer insects for Eurasian skylark to forage; and
- Eurasian skylark plots should not connect to tramlines and must be placed away from boundaries and telegraph poles to minimise predation risk.

7.3.3. If sileage fields are present on Site:

- Eurasian skylark can nest in silage fields if cutting or grazing is avoided from early April to late May. Later cuts must be spaced at least seven weeks apart for nesting success.

7.3.4. Effective management of hedgerows and tree lines around arable fields to improve nesting habitat for Eurasian skylark, specifically to prevent excessive height, thereby reducing their suitability for avian predators that may monitor prey species such as ground-nesting Eurasian skylark from such vantage points.

7.3.5. Removed trees if required to facilitate the Proposed Development should be replaced at a 3:1 ratio, as is in line with policy (PPW, 2024[14]). Enhancement of retained habitats for improved biodiversity is discussed in **Section 8**.

[14] Welsh Government (2024) Planning Policy Wales. Edition 12. February 2024.

8. Ecological Enhancement Opportunities

8.1.1. Retain 10% of the arable land as weedy overwinter stubble and where possible do not crop until at least mid-February to provide a valuable winter foraging habitat for birds such as Eurasian skylark and meadow pipit. Cereal stubbles that have not been treated with pre-harvest glyphosate or post-harvest herbicides during the winter are considered most beneficial. Further information regarding providing winter stubble for birds and other wildlife is available here: https://farmwildlife.info/how-to-do-it-5/seed-rich-habitats/winter-stubbles/ [Accessed April 2026].

8.1.2. Create tussocky grass margins around arable fields to create over-wintering habitat for beneficial insects, which will feed on crop pests in the spring. Wide grass margins help provide suitable habitat for hunting western barn owl and common kestrel by supporting populations of small mammals like field voles *Microtus agrestis* and harvest mice *Micromys minutus*. Further information with regard to managing grass margins beneficial for birds and other wildlife is available here: https://farmwildlife.info/how-to-do-it-5/field-boundaries/grass-margins-as-buffer-strips/ [Accessed April 2026].

8.1.3. Where possible use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce reliance on chemicals and manage weeds, pests, and diseases with non-chemical methods, minimising costs and environmental impact as per Farm Wildlife advice available at: https://farmwildlife.info/how-to-do-it/farmed-area/integrated-pest-management/ [Accessed April 2026] The best practice principles of IPM include:

- Creating wide buffer zones to shield watercourses, hedgerows, ponds, and woods from spray drift. Base weed, pest, and disease control on past issues and current seasonal factors;
- Regularly checking weed, pest, and disease levels to guide control measures. Economic thresholds indicate when action is cost-effective, and agronomists can provide forecasts based on seasonal conditions;
- Leaving longer gaps between planting the same crop in a field to reduce pests, weeds, and diseases. Follow recommended cropping intervals for each crop;
- Using cultivation methods like stale seedbeds to reduce weeds or direct drilling to prevent new weed seeds from surfacing, helping limit weed, pest, and disease carryover between crops;
- Selecting crop varieties resistant to common pests and diseases and alter sowing times and seed rates to reduce risk;
- Cleaning machinery and equipment to avoid disease transmission or applying inappropriate pesticides;
- Reducing environmental harm by choosing pesticides targeted to specific pests and avoiding harm to beneficial insects; and

- Applying pesticides efficiently by factoring in timing, weather, sprayer speed, and using technologies like low-drift nozzles to reduce spray drift.

8.1.4. Retain, enhance, and supplement field boundaries and species-poor hedgerows with native hedgerow and tree species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, and crab apple to provide winter food sources for birds including winter migrant thrushes fieldfare and redwing. Additional native species that would provide berries for birds and could be incorporated into hedgerows include guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus*, as well as spindle *Euonymus europaeus* in more exposed locations.

8.1.5. Install a western barn owl nest box in a suitable location on Site under the guidance of a suitably qualified ecologist.

8.1.6. Replace the existing degraded nest box for BoCC5 Amber-listed tawny owl *Strix aluco* in the small woodland parcel east of Fort Road (approximate central BNG ST 18249 68300).

9. Summary and Conclusion

9.1.1. A total of 44 species of bird were recorded during the Wintering Bird Survey including nine target species and 21 secondary species.

9.1.2. Winter bird surveys from November 2025 to March 2026 indicate that the Site hosts a diverse range of species with most seen in low numbers or infrequently. Moderate sized flocks of Eurasian skylark, meadow pipit, redwing, and chaffinch were observed although none regularly made up more than 1% of their county wintering populations (East Glamorgan) (GBC, 2024).

9.1.3. Overall, the Site was considered to be of no more than site importance for wintering birds. Farmland habitats such as arable crops and hedgerow/woodland field boundaries were however likely to provide a valuable resource for local populations of both resident and migrant wintering birds.

9.1.4. The survey visits provided no evidence that the fields within the Survey Area were being utilised by qualifying species of the nearby SPA and Ramsar sites. In view of this, the land within the Survey Area was not deemed to provide FLL to the SPA/Ramsar sites.

9.1.5. Ten potential Eurasian skylark breeding territories were recorded in the Survey Area, all located in arable land: six in the Eastern Extent (to be retained), one in the Western Extent, and three in the Central Extent. There is therefore potential to negatively affect breeding Eurasian skylark at the Western Extent and Central Extent.

9.1.6. No further survey requirements are recommended for wintering birds and/or Eurasian skylark following on from the current survey effort, however, avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures for wintering birds and Eurasian skylark are provided to include:

- Avoidance of removal of woodland, hedgerow and trees to retain foraging and roosting habitat for wintering birds;
- Avoidance of vegetation clearance in the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) to prevent damage or destruction of nests e.g., ground-nesting Eurasian skylark;
- Avoidance of night-time working and/or light spill from additional lighting (if required) to minimise disturbance to nocturnal or roosting birds;
- Measures to mitigate for the potential loss of breeding habitat for Eurasian skylark (Western and Central Extent) once the solar farm is operational, including planting spring cereals in retained arable land within the Site boundary; and/or the creation of skylark plots in winter cereal fields;
- Effective management of hedgerows and tree lines around arable fields to improve nesting habitat for Eurasian skylark, specifically to prevent excessive height which could attract avian predators; and

- Enhancement measures such as retention of weedy overwinter arable stubble and creation of tussocky grass margins for foraging birds and other wildlife; Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce reliance on chemicals and manage weeds, pests, and diseases with non-chemical methods; supplementary planting of native tree and hedgerow species to improve species-poor hedgerows/field boundaries; installation of western barn owl box; and replacement of a tawny owl box.

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Annex A - Figures

Figure 1 - Site, Survey Area and Transect Locations

Figure 2 - Statutory Designated Sites of International Importance within 2 km

Figure 3 - Statutory Designated Sites of National Importance within 2 km

Figure 4 - Wintering Bird Survey Results Visit 1, November 2025

Figure 5 - Wintering Bird Survey Results Visit 2, December 2025

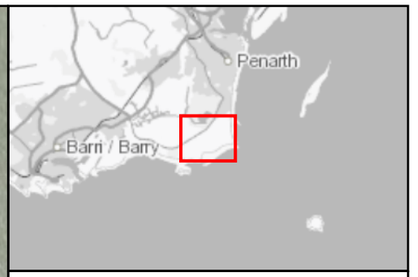
Figure 6 - Wintering Bird Survey Results Visit 3, January 2026

Figure 7 - Wintering Bird Survey Results Visit 4, February 2026

Figure 8 - Wintering Bird Survey Results Visit 5, March 2026

Figure 9 - Eurasian Skylark Potential Breeding Territory Results





Legend

- Site Boundary
- Survey Area
- Wintering Birds Transect
- Observation Point

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LARNOG SOLAR FARM
WINTERING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

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FIGURE 1
SITE, SURVEY AREA
AND TRANSECT LOCATIONS

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Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2km buffer
- Ramsar
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

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FIGURE 2
STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES
OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE WITHIN 2KM

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N

COG MOORS SSSI

COSMESTON LAKES COUNTRY PARK LNR

LLYNNOEDD COSMESTON / COSMESTON LAKES SSSI

SEVERN ESTUARY SSSI

PENARTH COAST SSSI

SULLY ISLAND SSSI

0 250 500 1,000
Meters



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2km buffer
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

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WINTERING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

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FIGURE 3
STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES
OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE WITHIN 2KM

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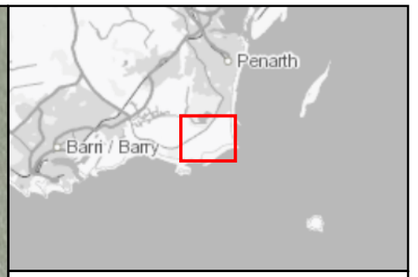
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Legend

- Site Boundary
- Survey Area
- Wintering Birds Transect
- Observation Point

Wintering Bird Survey visit 1 - bird locations

- Birds within Site
- Birds Flying Over Site

Please see Appendix E for Bird Species codes

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LARNOG SOLAR FARM
WINTERING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

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FIGURE 4
WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS
VISIT 1, NOVEMBER 2025

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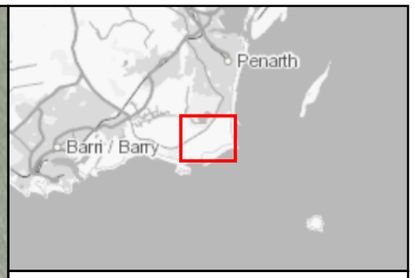
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Legend

- Site Boundary
- Survey Area
- Wintering Birds Transect
- Observation Point

Wintering Bird Survey Visit 2 - bird locations

- Birds within Site
- Birds Flying Over Site

Please see Appendix E for Bird Species codes

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WINTERING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

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FIGURE 5
WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS
VISIT 2, DECEMBER 2025

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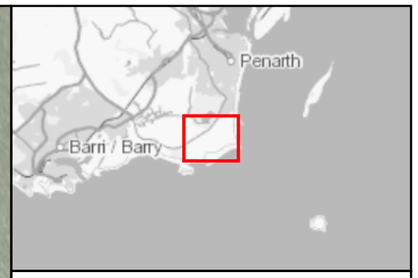
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N

0 75 150 300
Meters



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Survey Area
- Wintering Birds Transect
- Observation Point

Wintering Bird Survey Visit 3 - bird locations

- Birds Flying Over Site
- Birds within Site

Please see Appendix E for Bird Species codes

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WINTERING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

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FIGURE 6
WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS
VISIT 3, JANUARY 2026

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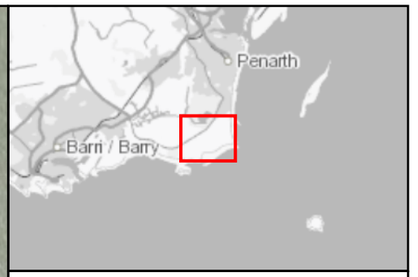
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Legend

- Site Boundary
- Survey Area
- Wintering Birds Transect
- Observation Point

Wintering Bird Survey Visit 4 - bird locations

- Birds Flying Over Site
- Birds within Site

Please see Appendix E for Bird Species codes

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WINTERING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

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FIGURE 7
WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS
VISIT 4, FEBRUARY 2026

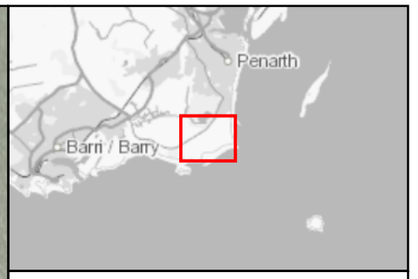
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Legend

- Site Boundary
- Survey Area
- Wintering Birds Transect
- Observation Point

Wintering Bird Survey Visit 5 - bird locations

- Birds Flying Over Site
- Birds within Site

Please see Appendix E for Bird Species codes

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WINTERING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

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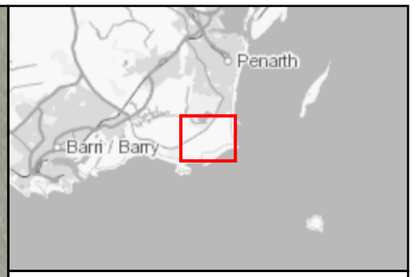
FIGURE 8
WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS
VISIT 5, MARCH 2026

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Legend

- Site Boundary
- Survey Area
- Observation Point
- Potential breeding skylark territories February 2026
- Potential breeding skylark territories March 2026
- S. Singing Skylark

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PROJECT TITLE:

LARNOG SOLAR FARM
WINTERING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

DRAWING TITLE:

FIGURE 9
EURASIAN SKYLARK PROBABLE BREEDING TERRITORY RESULTS

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Annex B – Species

Table 5 - Species names

Species Name (English vernacular)	Species Name (Scientific)
Black-headed gull	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Carrion crow	*Corvus corone*
Coal tit	*Periparus ater*
Common blackbird	*Turdus merula*
Common buzzard	*Buteo buteo*
Common kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*
Common linnet	*Linaria cannabina*
Common pheasant	*Phasianus colchicus*
Common reed bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*
Common snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*
Common starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
Common wood pigeon	*Columba palumbus*
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*
Eurasian blue tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus*
Eurasian chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*
Eurasian jay	*Garrulus glandarius*
Eurasian magpie	*Pica pica*
Eurasian oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*
Eurasian siskin	*Spinus spinus*
Eurasian skylark	*Alauda arvensis*
Eurasian sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*
Eurasian woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*
Eurasian wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*
European goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*

Species Name (English vernacular)	Species Name (Scientific)
European green woodpecker	*Picus viridis*
European greenfinch	*Chloris chloris*
European herring gull	*Larus argentatus*
European robin	*Erithacus rubecula*
Fieldfare	*Turdus pilaris*
Goldcrest	*Regulus regulus*
Great cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*
Great spotted woodpecker	*Dendrocopos major*
Great tit	*Parus major*
Grey heron	*Ardea cinerea*
Lesser black-backed gull	*Larus fuscus*
Long-tailed tit	*Aegithalos caudatus*
Meadow pipit	*Anthus pratensis*
Mistle thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*
Northern raven	*Corvus corax*
Peregrine falcon	*Falco peregrinus*
Redwing	*Turdus iliacus*
Song thrush	*Turdus philomelos*
Water rail	*Rallus aquaticus*
White wagtail sub-species pied wagtail	*Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Annex C – Relevant Legislation And Planning Policy

Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC)

Annex 1 of the Birds Directive lists species and sub-species which are:

- in danger of extinction;
- vulnerable to specific changes in their habitat;
- considered rare because of small populations or restricted local distribution;
- requiring particular attention for reasons of the specific nature of habitat.
- For these species Member States must conserve their most suitable territories in number and size as Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Species listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive include kingfisher and red kite.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Schedule 1

- All naturally occurring British bird species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The legislation protects all birds, their nests and eggs and it is an offence to:
- intentionally kill, injure and take any wild bird;
- intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; or
- intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- Birds listed on Schedule 1 of the above legislation (e.g. kingfisher and red kite) are afforded further protection and it is an offence to:
- intentionally or recklessly disturb the bird while nest building or while at (or near) a nest with eggs or young; or disturb dependent young of such a bird.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

- Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (as amended) has replaced the Section 42 of the NERC Act 2006 in Wales. Section 7 lists the living organisms and types of habitat in Wales which are considered to be of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity in relation to Wales.
- The Act states that Welsh Ministers must take all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under this section and encourage others to take such steps.

Red and Amber Lists

- Red-listed bird species are those which:
- Are globally threatened;
- Have suffered a historical population decline in the UK during 1800–1995;

- Have suffered a severe (at least 50%) decline in the UK breeding population over the last 25 years, or longer-term period (the entire period used for assessments since the first review, starting in 1969);
- Have suffered a severe (at least 50%) contraction of the UK breeding range over the last 25 years, or the longer-term period;

Amber-listed bird species are those which:

- Have unfavourable conservation status in Europe (SPEC = Species of European Conservation Concern)
- Have suffered a historical population decline during 1800–1995, but recovering; population size has more than doubled over last 25 years
- Have suffered a moderate (25-49%) decline in the UK breeding population over the last 25 years, or the longer-term period
- Have suffered a moderate (25-49%) contraction of the UK breeding range over last 25 years, or the longer-term period
- Have suffered a moderate (25-49%) decline in the UK non-breeding population over last 25 years, or the longer-term period
- Are rare breeders; 1–300 breeding pairs in UK
- Are rare non-breeders; less than 900 individuals
- Are localised; at least 50% of the UK breeding or non-breeding population in 10 or fewer sites, but not applied to rare breeders or non-breeders
- Are internationally important; at least 20% of European breeding or non-breeding population in UK (NW European and East Atlantic Flyway populations used for non-breeding wildfowl and waders respectively).

Annex D – Survey Visit Details

Table 6 - Wintering bird survey visit details

Visit No.	Date	Times	Cloud cover (of 8)	Wind direction	Wind strength (Beaufort scale)	Precipitation	Visibility	Temperature
1	26/11/2025	10:00 - 14:15	2	SE	3	None	Good	6°C - 8°C
2	11/12/2025	09:20 - 14:00	6	S	3	None	Good	10°C - 11°C
3	16/01/2026	08:30 - 14:30	6	SE	3	None	Good	6°C - 9°C
4	13/02/2026	08:30 – 16:00	6	S	3	Light rain approximately 14:45 – 16:00	Good	6°C - 10°C
5	06/03/2026	07:15 - 12:45	8	N	2	None	Good	6°C - 8°C

Key to visibility: Poor (<1 km); Moderate (1-3 km); Good (>3 km)

Annex E - British Trust For Ornithology 2-Letter Bird Species Codes

Table 7 - BTO 2-Letter Bird Species Codes

Bird species (as per BTO name)	Species Code
Black-headed gull	BH
Chaffinch	CH
Coal tit	CT
Dunnock	D.
Fieldfare	FF
Goldcrest	GC
Greenfinch	GR
Green woodpecker	G.
Grey heron	H.
Herring gull	HG
House sparrow	HS
Kestrel	K.
Lesser black-backed gull	LB
Linnet	LI
Magpie	MG
Meadow pipit	MP
Mistle thrush	M.
Oystercatcher	OY
Peregrine	PE
Redwing	RE
Reed bunting	RB
Skylark	S.
Snipe	SN
Song thrush	ST
Sparrowhawk	SH
Starling	SG
Water rail	WA
Woodcock	WK
Woodpigeon	WP

Bird species (as per BTO name)	Species Code
Wren	WR