




Neilston Greener Grid Park S.36 Application

TNEI on behalf of Statkraft UK Ltd



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APPENDICES

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GLOSSARY

Acronyms/Abbreviations	Definition
ACIEEM	Associate Member of Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BoCC	Bird(s) of Conservation Concern
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
Habitats Regulations	Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended)
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
MCIEEM	Member of Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management
European site	A European site designated for its nature conservation value
NPF	National Planning Framework
NS	NatureScot
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SPA	Special Protection Area
W&CA	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contents	Summary
Site Location	The site is located off the B775 Gleniffer Road in Renfrewshire, adjacent to Neilston Substation. The site is centred at approximate grid reference NS 42665 57399 and the nearest post code is PA2 8UY.
Proposals	The proposed development is the formation of an up to 750MW Battery Storage Facility, comprising up to 88 battery storage container blocks and associated infrastructure, storage containers, welfare, diesel generators, CCTV and lighting columns and associated access, internal access roads, hard and soft landscaping, SuDS basin, perimeter fence and underground grid connection cable.
Scope of this Survey(s)	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise the findings of the breeding bird surveys and report on the presence or otherwise of breeding bird species on and around the site; • Determine if any potential impacts on breeding birds are likely to arise from the development; • Provide preliminary advice and outline strategies to avoid/mitigate/compensate for any likely impacts on breeding birds; • Identify any opportunities for enhancement to improve the carrying capacity of the site for breeding birds
Results and Evaluation	<p>Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i> were confirmed to be breeding on the site, and meadow pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i> and willow warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> were considered probably breeding on the site. Ten further bird species were considered to possibly be breeding on the site.</p> <p>If suitable avoidance and mitigation strategies are implemented, plans for the site are considered to be of low impact to breeding bird populations due to the abundance of similar habitats nearby.</p>
Recommendations	<p>Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any vegetation clearance should take place outside of the nesting bird season which is March-August inclusive. Should this not be possible, a nesting bird check must be undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist no more than 24 hours prior to vegetation clearance. Should any nests be found, an appropriate buffer area as determined by the ecologist must be implemented. • An operational noise assessment should be undertaken to determine potential impacts during the operational phase. Depending on the results of this assessment, further mitigation measures may be required. • Any lighting on the site must avoid illuminating adjacent habitats e.g. tree lines.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities which may cause loud, intense, or prolonged noise or vibrations during the bird nesting season should be reviewed by a project ecologist in relation to any known nest sites nearby. <p>Enhancement opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Landscape planting: the planting of trees, shrubs, hedgerows, and wildflowers around the edges of the site would create new habitats, provide additional foraging resources for a range of species including breeding birds, and increase the biodiversity of the site.• Bird boxes: the installation of at least three bird boxes suitable for passerines such as song thrush on the north, east, or west aspects of mature trees around the edges of the site would provide additional nesting habitat.
Conclusions	Provided the measures within this report for mitigation and enhancement can be adopted, it is anticipated that a design could be brought forward for this site that would be compliant with current local and national biodiversity planning policy and legislation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tetra Tech was commissioned by TNEI on behalf of Statkraft UK Ltd in May 2023 to undertake breeding bird surveys of land at the location of the proposed Neilston Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), as part of the Neilston Greener Grid Park S.36 Application, hereafter referred to as “the site”.

This report has been prepared by Consultant Ecologist Ash Ronaldson BSc (Hons) and the conditions pertinent to it are provided in Appendix A.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is located off the B775 Gleniffer Road in Renfrewshire, 3.8km northwest of Neilston and 15.3km southeast of the centre of Glasgow and is centred at Northing: 659853 Easting: 245060 / Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference NS 45060 59853 (Figure 1). The largest area of site is located opposite Neilston substation and comprises two pastoral fields, covering an area approximately 0.1km². The proposed cable route adjacent to the east side of the substation covers an area approximately 0.01km² and primarily comprises grassland and scrub habitat with a row of mature Sitka spruce *Picea sitchensis* at the southern edge. A second proposed cable route to the west of the substation which was not included within this survey comprises areas of mixed woodland, scrub, and marshy grassland. The surrounding landscape is dominated by fields and farmland, with woodland adjacent to the northeast site boundary and lowland raised bog to the southwest.

1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The proposed development is the construction and operation of a BESS with a cable route to the substation, and associated infrastructure such as a HV yard, control building, stores/offices, access roads, and security fencing.

The development would involve the removal of approximately 0.12km² of grassland and scrub habitats, potentially including a small number of mature Sitka spruce trees.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The objectives of this report are to:

- Determine existing bird records and locally designated sites of relevance to birds.
- Summarise the findings of the bird surveys and report on the presence or otherwise of breeding bird species on and around the site.
- Determine if any potential impacts on breeding birds are likely to arise from the development.
- Provide preliminary advice and outline strategies to avoid/mitigate/compensate for any likely impacts on breeding birds.
- Identify opportunities for enhancement to improve the carrying capacity of the site for breeding birds.

The details of this report will remain valid for a period of eighteen months from the date of the survey (i.e. until 17th January 2025), after which the validity of this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether further updates are necessary. The recommendations within this report should be reviewed (and reassessed if necessary) should there be any changes to the red line boundary or development proposals which this report was based on.

Note that scientific names are provided at the first mention of each species and common names (where appropriate) are then used throughout the rest of the report for ease of reading.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 HISTORIC SURVEYS

Ecological appraisals of the site undertaken in January 2021 (Arcus, 2021) and November 2022 (Tetra Tech, 2022) found that the habitats on site are likely to be suitable for ground nesting bird species.

2.2 DESK STUDY

A desktop study was undertaken as part of the initial PEA (Tetra Tech, 2023) and comprised two elements:

- A data search requested from Glasgow Museum Biological Records Centre (GMBRC) during November 2022 for records of protected or notable bird species records within 2km of the site boundary;
- Online elements including a 2km search using NatureScot SiteLink (<https://sitelink.nature.scot/map>), Scotland's Environment Web (<https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap/>) and Ordnance Survey (OS) and Aerial Imagery (<https://www.bing.com/maps>). This included a search for any designated sites within 2km supporting breeding birds. The search was conducted in November 2022.

2.3 FIELD SURVEYS

2.3.1 Breeding Bird Surveys

The survey followed the methodology set out in the Bird Survey Guidelines (Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group, 2022) and involved five survey visits to the site made to the site during the breeding season, between March and mid-July using the standard territory (registration) mapping techniques as detailed in Bibby *et al.* (2007). This method is based on the observation that many species are territorial during the breeding season. This is found particularly amongst passerines, where territories are often marked by conspicuous song, display, and periodic disputes with neighbouring individuals. Registrations of birds were recorded on an appropriate field map, using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) two letter species codes and activity codes (Gilbert *et al.*, 2002).

The surveys consisted of a combination of observations from a walked transect route around the site, which ensured full coverage of the survey area (see Figure 2). The registrations of birds, using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) two letter species codes and activity codes (Gilbert *et al.*, 2002), were placed onto an appropriate field map. Specific symbols were used for singing, calling and movements of the same bird between different areas, flying, carrying food, nest building, aggressive encounters, and other notable behaviour (Gilbert *et al.*, 2002).

The likelihood of breeding was determined using the BTO breeding status codes table (see link in References), using observations of activities such as singing, food carrying, aggressive encounters, and actual nest building.

Confirmed – examples of confirmed breeding include:

- Recently fledged or downy young;

- Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young;
- Nests containing eggs;
- Nest with young seen or heard; and
- Distraction displays / injury feigning.

Probable – examples of probable breeding include:

- Pair seen in suitable habitat;
- Permanent territory (defended over at least two survey visits);
- Courtship and display;
- Visiting potential nest site;
- Agitated behaviour; and
- Nest building / hole excavation.

Possible – examples of possible breeding include:

- Observed in suitable nesting habitat; and
- Singing male.

Non-breeder – examples of non-breeding behaviour include:

- Overflying;
- Migrant;
- Summering non-breeder; and
- Observed in unsuitable nesting habitat.

The field data from each survey was transferred into the main bird map of the site. This map was analysed to estimate the number of breeding territories found for each species and produce a table with bird species total.

The following meteorological variables were recorded at both the start and end of each survey:

- Cloud cover (0% - clear sky, to 100% - total cloud cover);
- Wind speed (Beaufort scale (BF); Force 0 – no wind, to Force 6 – strong wind (note: surveys should not be carried out above Force 6 wind));
- Temperature (°C);
- Precipitation (mm); and
- Visibility (excellent, good, moderate, or poor).

Details of the breeding bird survey dates and weather conditions are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Breeding bird survey dates and weather conditions.

Survey No.	Date	Time		Air Temperature (°C)		Wind Speed	Cloud Cover (%)	Precipitation (%)
		Start	End	Initial	Final			
1	14.06.2023	10:45	12:45	20	26	2	0	0
2	26.06.2023	10:30	12:00	16	17	3	20	10
3	04.07.2023	10:30	12:00	13	12	2	0	0
4	10.07.2023	10:30	12:00	15	15	3	0	0
5	17.07.2023	10:30	13:00	14	15	3	10	0

2.4 LIMITATIONS

Due to the surveys being commissioned late in the season, five surveys (rather than the six recommended in the aforementioned guidelines) were undertaken. Due to the limited range and suitability of habitats on site (including evidence of occasional grazing/livestock movement through some grassland areas), this was not considered a significant limitation.

Dawn/dusk surveys were not undertaken; although this is a limitation, the habitats on site are of limited value and considered likely to be used only by common, widespread breeding bird species.

Access permission was not granted to the land proposed for the cable route at the north of the site, and so this area could only be surveyed from the road/fence line. It is therefore possible that smaller birds in habitats at the northern end of the planned cable route may have been missed. However, bird activity levels in this area were low overall and the suitability of habitats fairly poor.

At the time of survey, the red line boundary did not include the cable route to the west of the substation. This area therefore was not surveyed.

Due to the complexity of avian behaviour some degree of subjectivity is inevitably involved in this assessment. However, overall, the survey is considered to offer a high degree of accuracy in assessing the range of species breeding within the site and their relative abundance.

All surveys were completed in suitable weather conditions.

Notwithstanding the limitations highlighted above, the survey effort applied is considered sufficient to meet the aims of the survey and this report, in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines.

The details of this report will remain valid for a period of eighteen months from the date of the final survey (i.e. until 17th January 2025), after which the validity of this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether further updates are necessary. Note that the recommendations within this report should be reviewed (and reassessed if necessary) should there be any changes to the red line boundary or development proposals which this report was based on.

3.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

3.1 HISTORIC SURVEYS

Tetra Tech is not aware of any previous breeding bird surveys of the site. However, Tetra Tech have previously completed a preliminary ecological appraisal of the main site (Tetra Tech, 2022) and cable route (Tetra Tech, 2023), finding habitats suitable to support ground and tree nesting bird species.

3.2 DESK STUDY

Data was requested from Glasgow Museum Biological Records Centre (GMBRC) in November 2022.

The desk study returned records of species listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL), species listed as either red or amber on BoCC5 (Stanbury et al., 2021) and species protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The Schedule 1 species were kingfisher *Acedo atthis*, greylag goose *Anser anser*, goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*, merlin *Falco columbarius*, peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*, brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*, crossbill *Loxia* sp., osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, and barn owl *Tyto alba*.

The closest of these records were for fieldfare, merlin, peregrine, and crossbill, all of which were located within the same four-figure grid reference point immediately adjacent to the site. Further records for these species as well as hen harrier are located within 500m of the site.

No designated sites known to support notable species of bird were identified within 2km of the site.

3.3 FIELD SURVEYS

A total of 23 bird species were recorded during the suite of breeding bird surveys, including:

- Four BoCC Red List species;
- Five BoCC Amber List species,
- 14 BoCC Green List species

The breeding statuses of the 23 species recorded during the surveys was as follows:

- One species was confirmed to be breeding;
- Two species were considered probable breeders;
- Ten species were considered possible breeders; and
- Ten species were overflying / non-breeders.

Notable species, along with their breeding status and number of potential territories, are summarised below in

Table 2, with their observation locations shown in Figure 3 and estimated territory locations in Figure 4. A full list of species observed is provided in Appendix C.

With reference to

Table 2, it should be noted that the presence of a potential territory does not indicate the total number of breeding territories / pairs, but rather the maximum number of potential breeding territories / pairs during the season when surveys were completed.

Table 2. Notable species recorded.

Species Name	Common Name	W&CA and BoCC Status	Number of potential territories	Breeding status
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	BoCC - Red	0	Non-breeder
<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Grasshopper warbler	BoCC - Red	1	Non-breeder
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song thrush	BoCC - Red	1	Possible
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle thrush	BoCC - Red	0	Non-breeder
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow pipit	BoCC - Amber	1	Probable
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	BoCC - Amber	0	Non-breeder
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed bunting	BoCC - Amber	1	Possible
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common kestrel	BoCC - Amber	0	Non-breeder
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow warbler	BoCC - Amber	3	Probable
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch	BoCC – Green	1	Possible
<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Treecreeper	BoCC – Green	1	Possible
<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Blue tit	BoCC – Green	2	Possible
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch	BoCC – Green	1	Possible
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow	BoCC - Green	1	Confirmed
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest	BoCC – Green	1	Possible
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	BoCC – Green	1	Possible
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird	BoCC – Green	1	Possible

4.0 DISCUSSION

Following the desk study and field survey, breeding birds have been confirmed as being present within the stone bunker on the site. Breeding birds are also considered likely to be present within the grassland in the southwest field and the scrub habitat adjacent to the cable route.

Based on plans provided by the client (Figure 5) there are likely to be adverse effects on breeding birds through loss of habitat, and disturbance during the construction and operational phases on site.

4.1 IMPACTS

4.1.1 Designated Sites

Black Cart SPA is located approximately 6.9km north of the site and is designated due to regularly supporting a wintering population of Annex 1 species whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*.

The development is considered unlikely to impact this qualifying species due to the distance of the site from Black Cart SPA and the lack of suitable habitat (i.e. waterbodies) on site.

4.1.2 Loss of Habitats

The plans for the site will involve the removal of approximately 0.12km² of grassland habitat in which meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis* and reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* are considered likely to be nesting, and a stone bunker in which two swallow nests were found. The installation of the cable route may also result in the removal of mature trees in which blackbird may be nesting. As well as nesting opportunities, these grassland and tree habitats are likely to host foraging resources in the form of invertebrates for passerines, and small mammals for birds of prey.

Due to the abundance of similar habitats nearby, this habitat loss is considered to be of low impact.

4.1.3 Construction-phase Disturbance

Vegetation clearance during the construction phase is considered likely to cause disturbance to birds using the habitats on site for foraging or nesting. Construction noise and vibration may also cause disturbance to birds using adjacent habitats.

4.1.4 Operational-phase Disturbance

Noise during the operational phase may disturb breeding birds in the habitats surrounding the site.

4.2 MITIGATION

As adverse effects on breeding birds are anticipated, mitigation will be required to avoid an offence under Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

The mitigation hierarchy principles are:

- Avoidance – to avoid adverse effects as far as possible by designing out or using preventative measures during the construction process thus resulting in an environmental effect of neutral significance.

- Reduction – to minimise adverse effects as far as possible.
- Compensation – involves measures of the same value to off-set the impact.

4.2.1 Loss of Habitat

Approximately 0.12km² of grassland habitat will be lost. As it will not be possible to replace this grassland, it is recommended that new scrub, hedgerow, and wildflower habitat is created around the edges of the site to provide improved foraging resources and nesting habitats for a range of bird species. Any trees which are to be felled should be compensated for by the planting of new trees, and all planting should use a mix of native, non-invasive species, including berry and seed producing species to provide a diversity of seasonal forage. Arisings from tree removal such as woodchip may be used as a surface mulch for new plantings to reduce competitive weeds, and some timber material may be used to create buried or fallen deadwood habitats. Both of these strategies can promote invertebrate habitat and thus a foraging resource for some bird species.

4.2.2 Construction-phase disturbance

Any vegetation clearance should take place outside of the nesting bird season which is March-August inclusive. Should this not be possible, a nesting bird check must be undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist no more than 24 hours prior to vegetation clearance. Should any nests be found, an appropriate buffer area as determined by the ecologist must be implemented.

Any lighting used during construction must avoid illuminating adjacent habitats e.g. tree lines.

Activities which may cause loud, intense, or prolonged noise or vibrations during the bird nesting season should be reviewed by a project ecologist in relation to any known nest sites nearby.

4.2.3 Operational-phase disturbance

An operational noise assessment should be undertaken to determine potential impacts during the operational phase. Depending on the results of this assessment, mitigation such as acoustic fencing may be necessary.

Permanent lighting for the site must be designed so as not to illuminate adjacent or created habitats.

4.3 ENHANCEMENT

It is a requirement of the NPF to provide enhancements for biodiversity as part of development. The following measures are proposed to enhance the site for breeding birds:

- Landscape planting: the planting of trees, shrubs, hedgerows, and wildflowers around the edges of the site would create new habitats, provide additional foraging resources for a range of species including breeding birds, as described in section 4.2.1.
- Bird boxes: the installation of at least three bird boxes suitable for passerines such as song thrush on the north, east, or west aspects of mature trees around the edges of the site would provide additional nesting habitat.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

Provided the measures within this report for mitigation and enhancement can be adopted, it is anticipated that a design could be brought forward for this site that would be compliant with current local and national biodiversity planning policy and legislation.

6.0 REFERENCES

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- Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended), HMSO.

FIGURES AND DRAWINGS

Figure 1 – Site Location Plan

Figure 2 – Transect Route

Figure 3 – Bird Observations

Figure 4 – Breeding Bird Territories

Figure 5 – Proposed Site Plan



Site Location Plan

Neilston

TNEI



Legend

Site boundary

Notes:

Drawn by: dylan.gussman

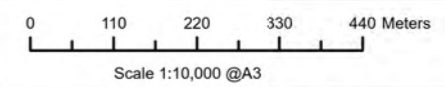
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Office: Southampton

Figure No. 1

Revision No. A

24 April 2024



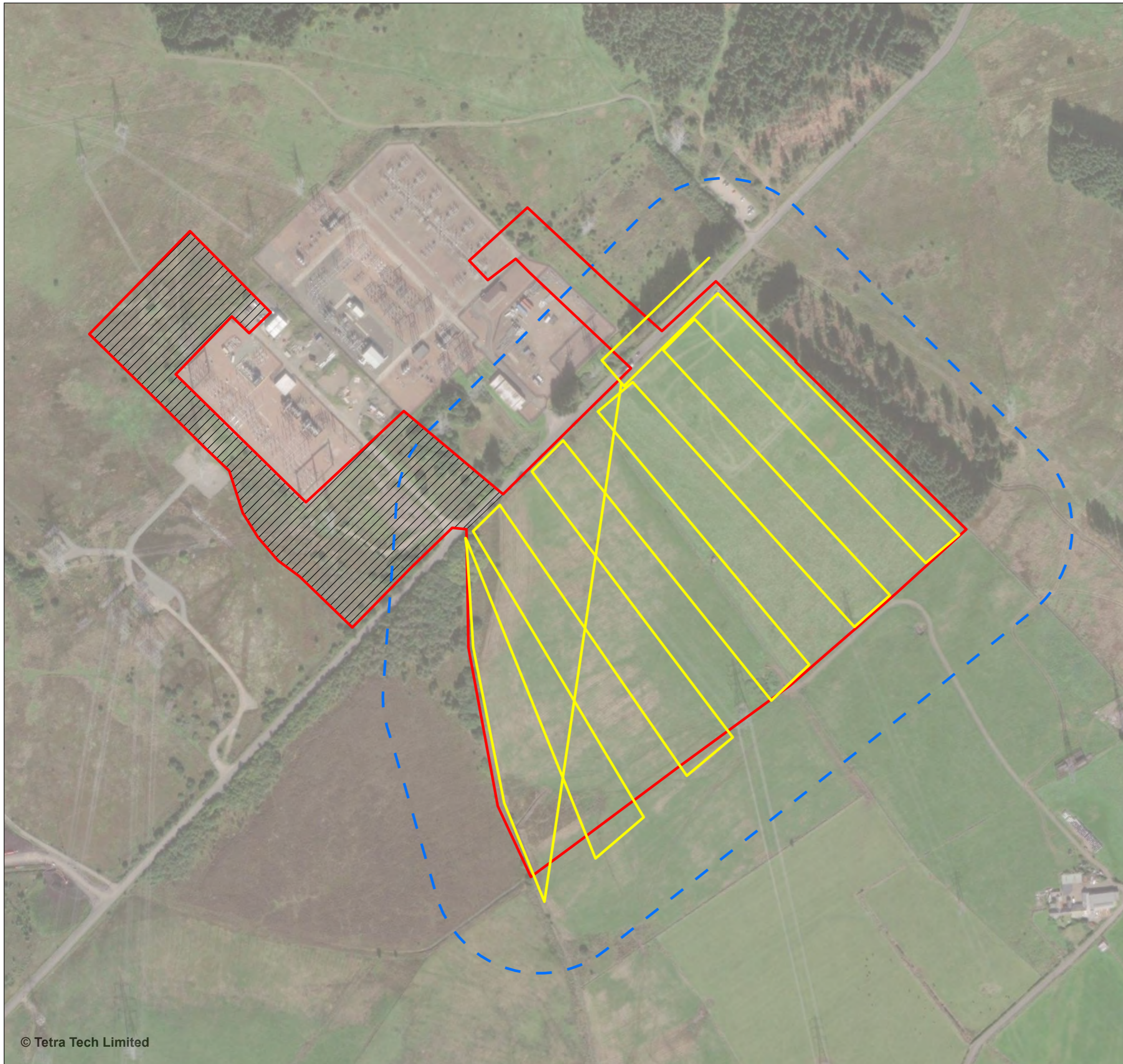
British National Grid

NGR: 245101E 659849N

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 Hampshire, SO30 2AF







Transect Route

Neilston



TNEI

Legend

-  Site boundary
-  Buffer
-  Unsurveyed area
-  Transect Route

Notes:

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 Checked by: AR
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Figure No. 2
 Revision No. A
 02 July 2024

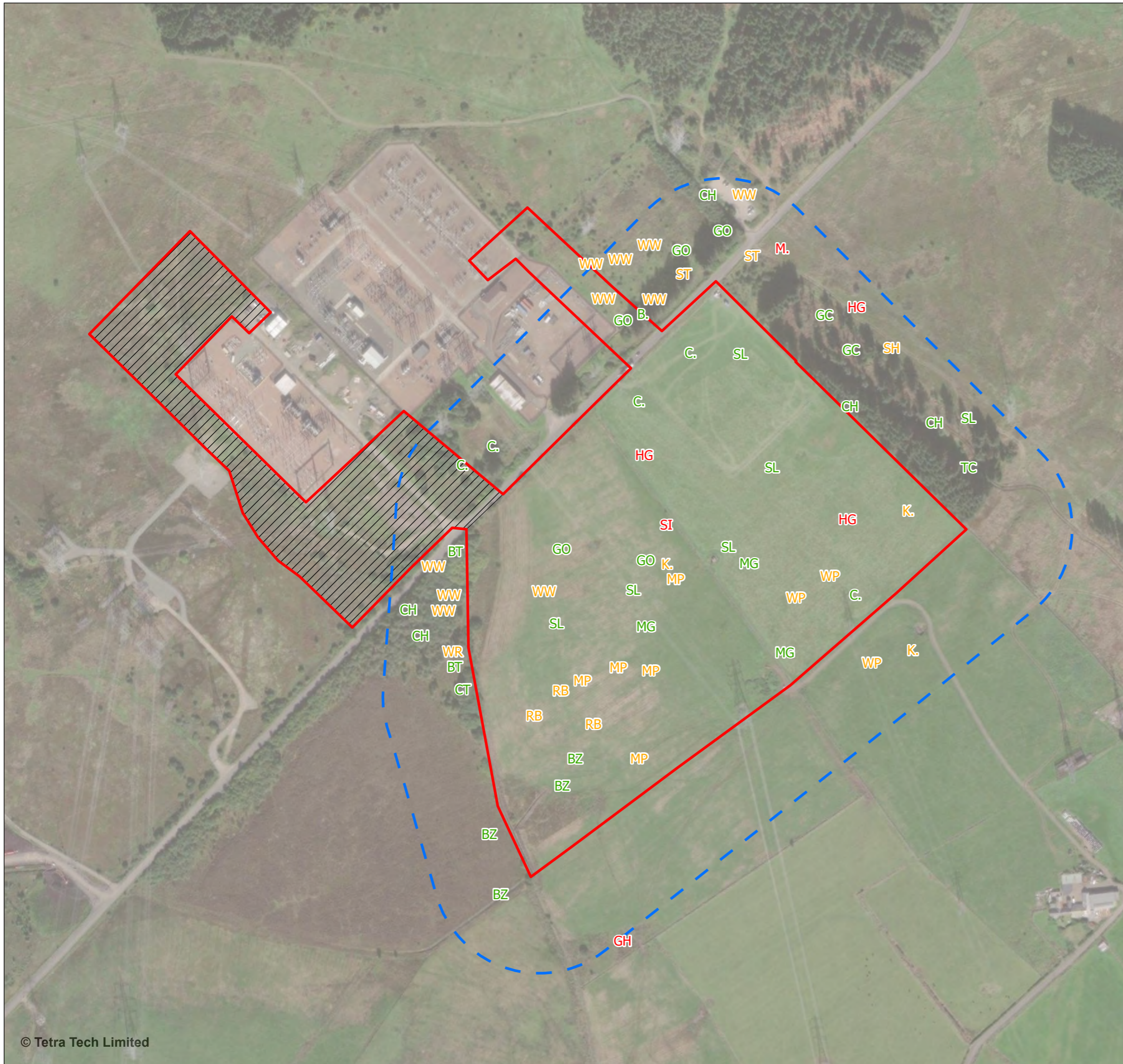
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 NGR: 244968E 659864N

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 Hampshire, SO30 2AF



Bird Observations

Neilston



TNEI

Legend

- Site boundary
- Buffer
- Unsurveyed area

BoCC Red listed species

- GH - Grasshopper Warbler
- HG - Herring Gull
- M. - Mistle Thrush
- ST - Song Thrush

BoCC Amber listed species

- K. - Kestrel
- MP - Meadow Pipit
- RB - Reed Bunting
- SI - Swift
- WW - Willow Warbler

BoCC Green listed species

- B. - Blackbird
- BT - Blue Tit
- BZ - Buzzard
- C. - Carrion Crow
- CH - Chaffinch
- CT - Coal Tit
- GC - Goldcrest
- GO - Goldfinch
- MG - Magpie
- SH - Sparrowhawk
- SL - Barn Swallow
- TC - Treecreeper
- WP - Woodpigeon
- WR - Wren

Notes:

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Figure No. 3

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Revision No. A

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02 July 2024

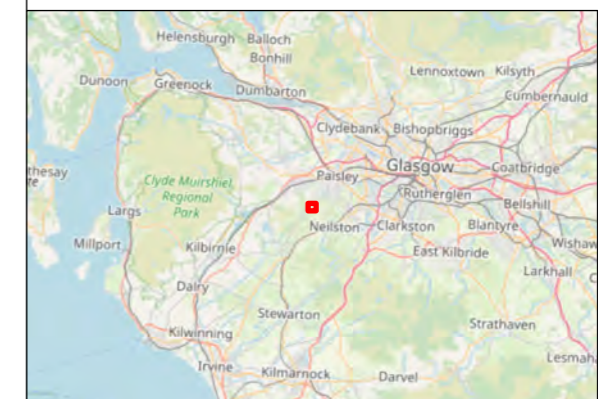
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Breeding Bird Territories

Neilston



TNEI

Legend

Site boundary

Buffer

Unsurveyed area

BoCC Red listed species

GH - Grasshopper Warbler

ST - Song Thrush

BoCC Amber listed species

MP - Meadow Pipit

RB - Reed Bunting

WW - Willow Warbler

BoCC Green listed species

B. - Blackbird

BT - Blue Tit

CH - Chaffinch

GC - Goldcrest

GO - Goldfinch

SL - Barn Swallow

TC - Trecreeper

WR - Wren

Notes:

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Figure No. 4

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0 30 60 90 120 Meters

British National Grid

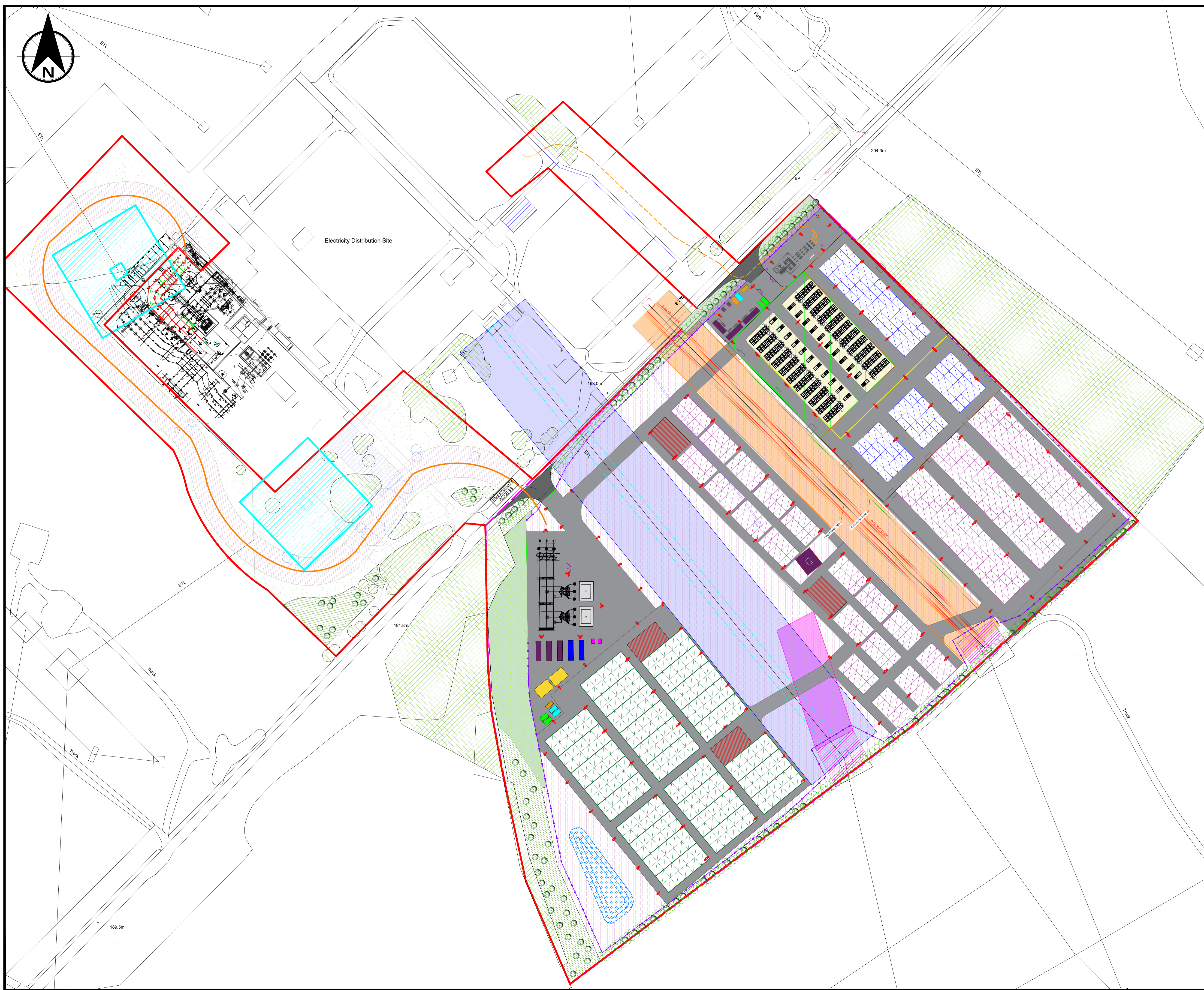
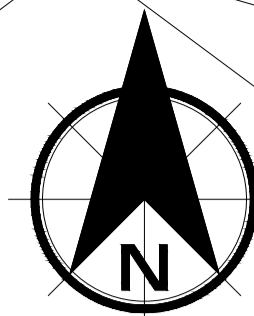
Scale 1:3,500 @A3

NGR: 244968E 659864N

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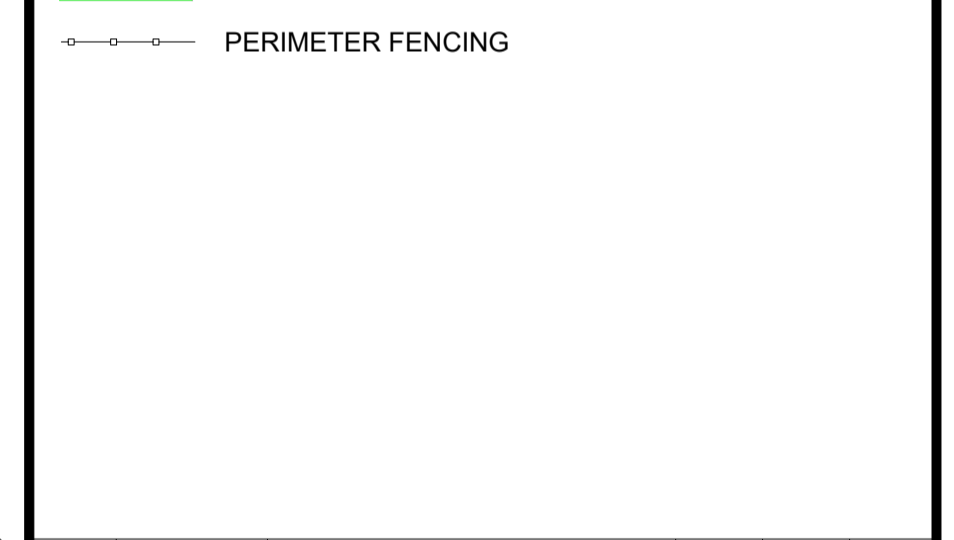
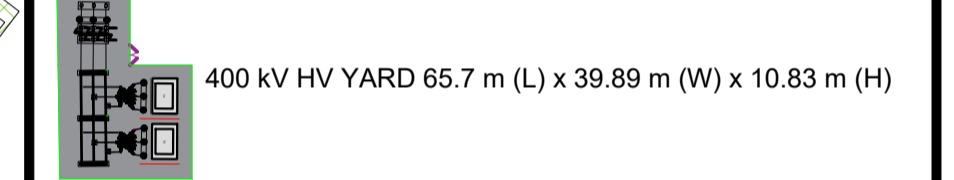


The Pavilion, 1st Floor
Botleigh Grange
Office Campus
Hedge End
Southampton
Hampshire, SO30 2AF



LEGEND

- SITE BOUNDARY
- AREA OF 50 MW TYPE A BESS UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- EXISTING WW2 BUNKER
- CONSENTED UNDERGROUND CABLE ROUTE
- PROPOSED UNDERGROUND CABLE ROUTE
- 117.6w LED 4000K VIVA CITY FLOOD 780mA WITH FW70 OPTIC COLUMN MOUNTED AT 6 m (H)
- 58.8w LED 4000K VIVA CITY FLOOD 585mA WITH FW70 OPTIC COLUMN MOUNTED AT 6 m (H)
- PERIMETER FENCE 3.4 m (H)
- RETAINING WALL
- AUX TRANSFORMERS 2.4 m (L) x 3.3 m (W) x 2.5 m (H)
- PROTECTION CONTROL BUILDING
- MV SWITCHGEAR BUILDING 14.1 m (L) x 3.7 m (W) x 5.55 m (H)
- GENSET 12.95 m (L) x 3.5 m (W) x 3.5 m (H)
- STORES 6.2 m (L) x 3.1 m (W) x 43.5 m (H)
- WELFARE 6.2 m (L) x 3.1 m (W) x 43.5 m (H)
- DIESEL GENERATORS 6.2 m (L) x 3.1 m (W) x 3.5 m (H)
- UNDERGROUND WATER TANKS 12 m (L) x 8 m (W) x 1.2 m (H)
- MV ROOMS 26 m (L) x 16.18 m (W) x 3.8 m (H)
- 12 m OHL BUFFER (132 kV)
- 25 m OHL BUFFER (275 kV)
- TENSIONING 90 m BUFFER
- INTERNAL ROADS (TARMAC)
- INTERNAL ROADS
- PYLON 30 m BUFFER
- SUBSTATION CONTROL BUILDING
- OFFICES 9.8 m (L) x 3.1 m (W) x 3.5 (H)
- EXTERNAL GATE 11.4 m (W) x 3.4 m (H)
- INTERNAL GATE 11.4 m (W) x 2.4 m (H)
- CCTV / LIGHTNING POLES
- SUDS PONDS
- BOLLARDS
- EXISTING VEGETATION TO BE RETAINED
- EXISTING GRASSLAND TO BE RETAINED
- PROPOSED NATIVE TREE
- PROPOSED NATIVE WOODLAND EDGE MIX
- PROPOSED NATIVE MIXED HEDGEROW
- PROPOSED NATIVE WILDFLOWER MEADOW
- PROPOSED NATIVE WETLAND MEADOW
- PROPOSED LIGHTING 1 NO. LED 6 m (H)
- PROPOSED LIGHTING 2 NO. LED 6 m (H)
- TYPE A BESS 26 m (L) x 16.18 m (W) x 3.8 m (H)
- TYPE B BESS 26 m (L) x 16.18 m (W) x 3.8 m (H)
- TYPE C BESS 38 m (L) x 15 m (W) x 3.8 m (H)



7	21/08/24	EDITS TO SITE LAYOUT	ST	BP	BP
Rev.	Date	Amendment Details	Dr'n	Chk'd	App'd

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Drawing Status: **FOR INFORMATION**

Project Title: **NEILSTON GREENER GRID PARK SECTION 36 APPLICATION**

Drawing Title: **PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT**

Scale	1:1250	Designed	ST	Drawn	ST	Checked	BP	Approved	BP	
Original Size	A1	Date	21/08/24	Date	21/08/24	Date	21/08/24	Date	21/08/24	
Drawing Number	15957 - 025								Revision	7

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Report Conditions

Appendix B: Legislation and Policy

Appendix C: Full List of Breeding Bird Species Recorded

APPENDIX A: REPORT CONDITIONS

This Report has been prepared using reasonable skill and care for the sole benefit of TNEI on behalf of Statkraft UK Ltd (“the Client”) for the proposed uses stated in the report by Tetra Tech Limited (“Tetra Tech”). Tetra Tech exclude all liability for any other uses and to any other party. The report must not be relied on or reproduced in whole or in part by any other party without the copyright holder’s permission.

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The report refers, within the limitations stated, to the environment of the site in the context of the surrounding area at the time of the inspections. Environmental conditions can vary and no warranty is given as to the possibility of changes in the environment of the site and surrounding area at differing times. No investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or not fully representative information. Any monitoring or survey work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations, including for example timescale, seasonal and weather-related conditions. Actual environmental conditions are typically more complex and variable than the investigative, predictive and modelling approaches indicate in practice, and the output of such approaches cannot be relied upon as a comprehensive or accurate indicator of future conditions. The “shelf life” of the Report will be determined by a number of factors including; its original purpose, the Client’s instructions, passage of time, advances in technology and techniques, changes in legislation etc. and therefore may require future re-assessment.

The whole of the report must be read as other sections of the report may contain information which puts into context the findings in any executive summary.

The performance of environmental protection measures and of buildings and other structures in relation to acoustics, vibration, noise mitigation and other environmental issues is influenced to a large extent by the degree to which the relevant environmental considerations are incorporated into the final design and specifications and the quality of workmanship and compliance with the specifications on site during construction. Tetra Tech accept no liability for issues with performance arising from such factors.

APPENDIX B: LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Habitats Directive

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, or the 'Habitats Directive', is a European Union directive adopted in 1992 in response to the Bern Convention. Its aims are to protect approximately 220 habitats and 1,000 species listed in its several Annexes.

In the UK, the Habitats Directive is transposed into national law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales, via the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland, and via the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

All wild birds in the UK are protected under Section 1 of the W&CA which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or its eggs. Bird species listed in Schedule 1 of the W&CA receive further protection which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb these species while building a nest or in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird

National Planning Framework 4

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) is the top tier of planning policy. The Framework provides guidance to local authorities and other agencies on planning policy and the operation of the planning system.

"Policy 1 gives significant weight to the nature crisis to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions. Policy 4 protects and enhances natural heritage, and this is further supported by Policy 5 on soils and Policy 6 on forests, woodland and trees. Policy 20 also promotes the expansion and connectivity of blue and green infrastructure, whilst Policy 10 recognises the particular sensitivities of coastal areas.

Protection of the natural features of brownfield land is also highlighted in Policy 9, and protection of the green belt in Policy 8 will ensure that biodiversity in these locations is conserved and accessible to communities, bringing nature into the design and layout of our cities, towns, streets and spaces in Policy 14.

Most significantly, Policy 3 plays a critical role in ensuring that development will secure positive effects for biodiversity. It rebalances the planning system in favour of conserving, restoring and enhancing biodiversity and promotes investment in nature-based solutions, benefiting people and nature. The policy ensures that Local Development Plans (LDPs) protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity and promote nature recovery and nature restoration. Proposals will be required to contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including by restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks. Adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development proposals on the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design, taking into account the need to reverse biodiversity loss. Development proposals for national, major or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks, so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention. Proposals for local development will include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity."

See here for full details: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) identify habitat and species conservation priorities at a local level (typically at the County level) and are usually drawn up by a consortium of local Government organisations and conservation charities.

Some LBAPs may also include Habitat Action Plans (HAP) and/or Species Action Plans (SAP), which are used to guide and inform the local decision-making process. The LBAP for the area is Renfrewshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2022 and the following bird species recorded on the site are identified as priority species:

- Song thrush
- Mistle thrush
- Swift
- Kestrel
- Meadow pipit
- Reed bunting

Birds of Conservation Concern

The conservation status of all regularly occurring British birds has been analysed in co-operation with the leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and Birdlife International Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (Stanbury et al., 2021). The basis of species ongoing population trends are assigned to one of three lists of Conservation Concern. These are the UK Red, Amber and Green list.

The criteria for birds being included in the lists is as follows:

1.0 Red List

2.0 Globally threatened.

3.0 Historical population decline in UK during 1800–1995.

4.0 Severe (at least 50%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years, or longer-term period (the entire period used for assessments since the first BoCC review, starting in 1969). Severe (at least 50%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years, or the longer-term period.

5.0 Amber List

6.0 Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe (SPEC = Species of European Conservation Concern).

7.0 Historical population decline during 1800–1995, but recovering; population size has more than doubled over last 25 years.

8.0 Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years, or since 1969.

9.0 Moderate (25-49%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years, or since 1969.

10.0 Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK non-breeding population over last 25 years, or since 1969.

11.0 Rare breeder; 1–300 breeding pairs in UK.

12.0 Rare non-breeders; less than 900 individuals.

13.0 Localised; at least 50% of UK breeding or non-breeding population in 10 or fewer sites, but not applied to rare breeders or non-breeders.

14.0 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).

15.0 Green List

16.0 Species that occur regularly in the UK but do not qualify under any or the above criteria.

Although the lists confer no legal status in themselves, they are useful in evaluating the conservation significance of bird assemblages, and for assessing the potential significance of impacts and informing appropriate levels of mitigation with respect to bird populations.

APPENDIX C: FULL LIST OF BIRD SPECIES RECORDED

Species Name	Common Name
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow pipit
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common buzzard
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch
<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Treecreeper
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Wood pigeon
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion crow
<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Blue tit
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House martin
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed bunting
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common kestrel
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull
<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Grasshopper warbler
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow warbler
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song thrush
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle thrush