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WINTERING BIRD SURVEY

At

Land off St George's Road
St George's Road
Abergele
Conwy

NGR: SH 95476 77181

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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY **3**

1 INTRODUCTION **4**
1.1 Author, surveyors, qualifications and experience 4
1.2 Survey objectives 4
1.3 Proposals 4
1.4 Structure of the report 5

2 METHODOLOGY **6**
2.1 Desk study 6
2.2 Field survey 6
2.3 Survey limitations 7

3 RESULTS **8**
3.1 Desk study 8
3.2 Field survey 9

4 EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS **14**
4.1 Evaluation of results 14
4.2 Recommendations 14

5 CONCLUSION **16**

APPENDICES **17**
Appendix 1 – Site plan 17
Appendix 2 – Survey results 18
Appendix 3 – Species list 19
Appendix 4 – Statutory and planning context 20

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

United Environmental Services (UES) Ltd have been commissioned to undertake wintering bird surveys at Land off St George's Road, Abergele. The surveys were commissioned in order to establish how the site is used by wintering birds, how these populations may be affected by the proposed development and to inform any mitigation and compensation measures that may be required.

The proposed development includes the construction of residential dwellings with associated access roads, infrastructure and areas of green space. Following the surveys, the development boundary was reduced to the southern field of the site (See Appendix 1), however this report details results of surveys covering the entire ownership boundary.

The site has an area of approximately 15.1ha and is comprised of modified grassland, with small areas of mixed scrub, species-rich and other native hedgerows, a line of trees, and scattered trees across the site. Five surveys were undertaken between November 2025 and March 2026, during which a total of 36 species were recorded. Overall, the bird assemblage on site is typical for the habitats present and the site was largely found to support a number of common and widespread species which can be seen throughout the year.

A total of 19 species of conservation concern were recorded during the surveys, including 6 Section 7 (Environment (Wales) Act 2016) species, 1 Schedule 1 (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) species, 6 Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Red List species and 13 BoCC Amber List species.

The majority of activity recorded was associated with the boundary hedgerows, trees and woodland strip at the site boundaries. It is expected that the majority of these habitats will be retained to maximise their value as boundary features. In addition, given that the wider area is a mixture of open farmland and small villages, it is considered likely that existing habitat resources in the wider area have the ability to absorb any displaced birds, particularly as the site is linked with the wider area via high quality landscape corridors.

The loss of the grassland fields will result in reduced foraging opportunities for corvids, gulls, meadow pipits *Anthus pratensis* and thrushes. However, many of these species do not have strict habitat requirements and they are all species that are widespread and common within North Wales and the UK. Therefore, the loss of these habitats is unlikely to affect their local and national populations. The fields off-site to the north-east offer superior habitat for these species throughout the year and will be able to support any displaced birds.

In general, the habitats are of low ecological value, and the proposed development allows for significant native planting as part of the landscaping scheme onsite, which will increase foraging, breeding and sheltering opportunities for birds. The habitats on site are not of high value for species that are designation features of the nearby Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area (SPA).

The report should be read in conjunction with appendices 1 to 4, which provide visual representations of the survey results, along with the statutory and planning context.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Author, surveyors, qualifications and experience

This report is compiled and written by Jonathan Heayns, BSc, MSc, UES Graduate Ecologist. Jonathan has extensive ornithological experience and is fully competent in the visual and acoustic identification of bird species.

All surveys were led by Jonathan, with the following assistant surveyors:

- Osian Shirley, MSci, UES Graduate Ecologist
- Matthew Inthone Chao, BSc, UES Graduate Ecologist
- Harry Fox, BSc, MRes, UES Graduate Ecologist.

All surveyors have the knowledge, skills and experience to conduct a robust bird survey or were under the supervision of a surveyor with the required competencies.

1.2 Survey objectives

United Environmental Services (UES) Ltd was commissioned in 2025 to conduct wintering bird surveys which include the following activities:

- Completion of a desk-based study to determine the site's suitability for, and level of use by different bird species, with specific reference to those species which are qualifying features for nearby statutorily protected sites;
- Assessment of the suitability of the site for use by those bird species;
- A suite of field surveys to determine the use of the site by wintering bird species;
- Provision of advice on how to maximise ecological benefits for bird species currently using the site, and advice on how to improve habitats generally for birds.

1.3 Proposals

The site has an area of approximately 15.1ha and is predominantly comprised of modified grassland, with small areas of mixed scrub, species-rich and other native hedgerows, a line of trees, and scattered trees[1].

The proposed development includes construction of residential dwellings with associated access roads, infrastructure and areas of green space. Following surveys the development boundary was reduced to the southern field of the site (see Appendix 1).

[1] United Environmental Services Ltd (2026). Preliminary Ecological Appraisal at Land off St George's Road, St George's Road, Abergele, Conwy (UES05204/01). January 2026.

1.4 Structure of the report

This report sets out the methodology, results, recommendations and compensation measures in relation to a specific bird survey. Recommendations are in line with statutory legislation and planning policy objectives.

The report should be read in conjunction with appendices 1 to 4, which provide visual representations of the survey results and statutory and planning context.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk study

A search for protected species or otherwise notable species and local designated sites was undertaken within a 2km radius of the site by Cofnod.

2.2 Field survey

The survey methodology involved carrying out five survey visits in order to gauge the use of the site by birds during the winter period.

Prior to the surveys, a transect route was mapped to incorporate the variety of habitats on site. This route was walked by the surveyors, stopping at a number of vantage points which allowed them to view large areas of the site in a stationary manner, allowing for birds to acclimatise to the surveyors' presence. Standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species codes and symbols for bird activities were recorded on a site map to identify birds and denote activity, flight paths, number, sex and age, where appropriate and possible.

Bird surveys were not undertaken in strongly disadvantageous weather conditions, such as heavy rain or strong winds, which may have otherwise negatively affected the survey results. Table 1 below provides a summary of the survey dates and weather conditions.

Table 1 – Survey dates and weather conditions

Date	Start & End time	Temp (°C)	Cloud cover (0-8)	Wind	Rain
27/11/25	12:15 – 15:00	13	6	Moderate breeze	Light (consistent)
18/12/25	08:40 – 10:20	8	8	Calm	None
21/01/26	11:55 – 13:45	6	8	Light breeze	Moderate (consistent)
19/02/26	10:30 – 12:30	4	8	Gentle breeze	None
19/03/26	10:00 – 12:30	11	0	Gentle breeze	None

2.3 Survey limitations

No significant limitations were encountered during the field surveys.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Desk study

3.1.1 Protected sites

One site has been identified within 2km of the site which is statutorily designated for its bird assemblages:

- **Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl Special Protection Area (SPA)**

  Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl SPA is in the east of the Irish Sea, bordering the coastlines of North-West England and North Wales, and running as a broad arc from Morecambe Bay to the east coast of Anglesey.

  It is classified for the protection of red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*, common scoter *Melanitta nigra*, and little gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* in the non-breeding season; common tern *Sterna hirundo* and little tern *Sterna albifrons* in the breeding season, and an internationally important waterbird assemblage. Other species present in numbers exceeding 1% of the GB total include red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator* and great cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

3.1.2 Protected species

Records of various species were returned from within 2km of the site, including several bird species listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the most recent Birds of Conservation Concern "red and amber" list; however, no records were returned from within the site boundary. The closest record of note details 250 pink-footed geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* located approximately 50m north of the northern site boundary. Other notable species recorded within 2km of site are shown below.

Table 2 – Notable species recorded within 2km of site

Common name	Latin name	Conservation status
Bar-tailed godwit	*Limosa lapponica*	Sec7, Amber
Black-tailed godwit	*Limosa limosa*	Sch1, Sec7, Red, UK BAP
Black-throated diver	*Gavia arctica*	Sch1, Amber, UK BAP
Common gull	*Larus canus*	Amber
Common scoter	*Melanitta nigra*	Sch1, Sec7, Red, UK BAP
Curlew	*Numenius arquata*	Red, Sec7, UK BAP
Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*	Red
European white-fronted goose	*Anser albifrons*	Red
Glaucous gull	*Larus hyperboreus*	Amber
Golden plover	*Pluvialis apricaria*	Sec7
Goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*	Sch1
Great black-backed gull	*Larus marinus*	Amber
Great northern diver	*Gavia immer*	Sch1, Amber
Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	Sch1, Amber
Herring gull	*Larus argentatus*	Sec7, Red, UK BAP

Common name	Latin name	Conservation status
Iceland gull	*Larus glaucoides*	Amber
Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	Red, Sec7, UK BAP
Leach's petrel	*Hydrobates leucorhous*	Sch1
Little gull	*Hydrocoloeus minutus*	Sch1
Little tern	*Sternula albifrons*	Sch1, Amber
Long-tailed duck	*Clangula hyemalis*	Sch1, Red
Mediterranean gull	*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*	Sch1, Amber
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*	Sch1, Red
Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*	Amber
Peregrine	*Falco peregrinus*	Sch1
Pink-footed goose	*Anser brachyrhynchus*	Amber
Pintail	*Anas acuta*	Sch1, Amber
Redshank	*Tringa totanus*	Amber
Red-throated diver	*Gavia stellata*	Sch1
Ringed plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	Sec7, Red
Scaup	*Aythya marila*	Sch1, Red, UK BAP
Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*	Amber
Shoveler	*Spatula clypeata*	Amber
Slavonian grebe	*Podiceps auritus*	Sch1, Red
Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	Amber
Teal	*Anas crecca*	Amber
Velvet scoter	*Melanitta fusca*	Sch1, Red
Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*	Sch1, Red
Whooper swan	*Cygnus cygnus*	Sch1, Amber
Wigeon	*Mareca penelope*	Amber

3.2 Field survey

3.2.1 Site assessment

The survey site has an area of approximately 15.1ha and is comprised of modified grassland, with small areas of mixed scrub, species-rich and other native hedgerows, a line of trees, and scattered trees across site.

The grassland covers the majority of the site and has a sward largely comprised of perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* with frequent Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Some areas of the grassland appear more recently established or disturbed, while in the southern field the grassland shows evidence of grazing by sheep and cows. Another area of grassland comprises the majority of the habitat in the north-western land parcel forming part of a park or sports pitch. A number of mature and semi-mature scattered trees are present across the site, mostly comprising oaks *Quercus* sp. but also ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. Within the easternmost field, several of the mature oaks are of significant size and exhibit veteran features. A strip of woodland runs north to south through the site, separating the two areas of grassland and providing moderate quality foraging opportunities for wintering birds on site.

The site is located on the outskirts of the town of Abergele, with areas of residential housing located to the west of the site. The immediate surrounding area to the south and east

comprises habitats similar to those on site. However, the A55 separates the site from the higher quality grasslands and marshes to the north-east. Liverpool Bay SPA is located approximately 1.8km north of the site and is designated for its assemblage of waterbirds.

A detailed habitat description is provided in UES' PEA[1] which has been prepared for the site (see report reference, UES05204/01). In summary, the site broadly offers habitats typical of the surrounding area: modified agricultural grasslands interspersed with hedgerows and scattered trees, and marginal areas of higher quality habitats with dense scrub and woodland.

3.2.2 Wintering bird survey

Five surveys were undertaken between November 2025 and March 2026 in order to determine the use of the site by wintering birds and to assess the importance of the site to local bird populations. A total of 36 species were recorded during the field surveys, including:

- 6 Section 7 species
- 1 Schedule 1 species
- 6 BoCC Red List species
- 13 BoCC Amber List species

Table 3 – Species of conservation concern

BTO Code	Latin name	Common name	BoCC	Schedule 1 species	Section 7 species	UK BAP species
BH	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	Black-headed gull	**Amber**			
CM	*Larus canus*	Common gull	**Amber**			
D.	*Prunella modularis*	Dunnock	**Amber**		✓	✓
GR	*Chloris chloris*	Greenfinch	**Red**			
GL	*Motacilla cinerea*	Grey wagtail	**Amber**			
HG	*Larus argentatus*	Herring gull	**Red**		✓	✓
HS	*Passer domesticus*	House sparrow	**Red**		✓	✓
L.	*Vanellus vanellus*	Lapwing	**Red**		✓	✓
LB	*Larus fuscus*	Lesser black-backed gull	**Amber**			
MP	*Anthus pratensis*	Meadow pipit	**Amber**			
M.	*Turdus viscivorus*	Mistle thrush	**Red**			
RE	*Turdus iliacus*	Redwing	**Amber**	✓		
RO	*Corvus frugilegus*	Rook	**Amber**			
SN	*Gallinago gallinago*	Snipe	**Amber**			
ST	*Turdus philomelos*	Song thrush	**Amber**		✓	✓
SG	*Sturnus vulgaris*	Starling	**Red**		✓	✓
SD	*Columba oenas*	Stock dove	**Amber**			
WP	*Columba palumbus*	Woodpigeon	**Amber**			

BTO Code	Latin name	Common name	BoCC	Schedule 1 species	Section 7 species	UK BAP species
WR	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	Wren	**Amber**			

All observations and a full species list are provided at Appendix 2 – Survey results and Appendix 3 – Species list.

The site was found to support a moderate assemblage of wintering bird species, typical of the habitats available onsite, as detailed below.

Waders, wildfowl and other water birds

Two wader species were recorded onsite during the surveys, lapwing and snipe. A single lapwing was recorded flying over the site at the eastern boundary on the 27th of November 2025. An individual snipe was flushed from the southern-most grassland on the 27th of November 2025.

Other than some small areas of ephemerally flooded field margins, the habitats on site offer limited opportunities for waders and wildfowl due to a lack of standing water and scrapes.

Gulls

The site supports a relatively low number of overwintering gulls. Most recordings were as flyovers or groups foraging in off-site fields. Species recorded were mostly herring gull which was primarily recorded flying over the site as individuals or in small groups. Large groups were also recorded foraging in the modified grasslands in rare instances. This species had a peak count of 57 on the 18th of December 2025.

Black-headed gull recordings were limited to the sports field and the adjacent grassland. One common gull was recorded foraging on the sports field on the 19th of February 2026.

The only other gull species was a single lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus* recorded flying over the site on the 27th of November 2025.

Thrushes

A relatively high number of mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus* were recorded during the surveys, which had a peak count of 7 on the 21st of January 2026. This species was frequently encountered foraging and calling from the grasslands on site. Song thrush *Turdus philomelos* recordings were lower, with a total of 5 recordings across all surveys.

Redwings were recorded on three survey visits, usually calling or flying over the site. There was a total of 7 recordings of this species.

Blackbird *Turdus merula* was recorded in high numbers on every survey visit. This species was mainly recorded singing and calling from within the site's hedgerows and treelines.

Raptors

The only raptor recorded across the five field surveys was an individual buzzard *Buteo buteo* which flew over the site on the 19th of March 2026.

Corvids

The site surveys identified a number of corvid species, with carrion crow *Corvus corone*, jackdaw *Coloeus monedula* and magpie *Pica pica* foraging, calling and flying over the site throughout the surveys. The grasslands and bordering treelines offer suitable habitat for these species over winter. Jay *Garrulus glandarius* and rook *Corvus Frugilegus* were less frequently recorded on site.

The only other corvid species recorded was a raven which flew over the site on two separate surveys.

Finches, buntings and sparrows

The site offers moderate foraging opportunities for finches, buntings and sparrows during the winter. Goldfinches *Carduelis carduelis* were recorded during many of the surveys. This species was mainly recorded as flying over the site but was also recorded calling from the mature trees on site.

A total of 4 greenfinches *Chloris chloris* were recorded across the five surveys. Three of these recordings were in the strip of woodland which separates the sports field and the rest of site.

5 house sparrows were recorded calling from a hedgerow bordering buildings to the south-east of the site.

Low numbers of chaffinches *Fringilla coelebs* were recorded using the boundary hedgerows and trees.

A single siskin *Spinus spinus* was recorded flying over the site on the 18th of December 2025.

Pigeons and doves

Woodpigeon were recorded on every survey visit with a total of 21 individuals across all surveys and a peak count of 12 individuals recorded on the 19th of March 2026. This species was recorded in small groups flying over the site or foraging in grassland fields.

2 stock doves *Columba oenas* were recorded on the 19th of March 2026 flying south over the site. The only other encountered species was a feral pigeon *Columba livia domestica*.

Small passerines and other species

A small number of passerines including blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, great tit *Parus major* and robin *Erithacus rubecula* were recorded throughout the site during every survey visit. Other species were recorded using the site during the surveys. Those of particular note / conservation concern are discussed below:

- Meadow pipits were recorded foraging and calling in the grasslands on site. A total of 6 birds were recorded across the five surveys. Four of these recordings were on the 19th of March 2026.

- Only 2 starlings were recorded onsite. One was recorded perched in a boundary hedgerow on the 18th of December 2025 and the other was recorded flying over the site on the 27th of November 2025.

- Relatively low numbers of wren and dunnock were recorded onsite. Approximately 9 wrens and 8 dunnocks were recorded overall, with these two species recorded utilising the boundary hedgerows.

- A grey wagtail was recorded along the northern boundary of site on the 19th of February 2026.

4 EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Evaluation of results

Five surveys were undertaken between November 2025 and March 2026 in order to determine the use of the site by wintering birds and to assess the importance of the site to local bird populations. A total of 36 species were recorded during the field surveys, including several species of conservation concern.

The majority of activity recorded was associated with the boundary hedgerows, trees and woodland. With this, the boundary features harboured the highest levels of small passerine activity, with frequently recorded species comprising blue tit, great tit, robin, dunnock, wren, goldfinch, blackbird, mistle thrush and long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*. Other notable but less frequently recorded species using these features include redwing, greenfinch, starling and song thrush. No detailed proposed development plans have been provided to UES at this stage; however, it is expected that the majority of hedgerows and trees will be retained to maximize their value as boundary features. As such, it is envisaged that impacts from vegetation clearance will be kept to a minimum. Additional native species-rich hedgerows could be planted to provide an enhancement in foraging, sheltering and nesting opportunities for these species in the future.

The large areas of grassland on site have been shown to support species such as mistle thrush, meadow pipit, carrion crow, herring gull, black-headed gull and common gull. The loss of these grasslands will result in reduced foraging opportunities for these species in the future. However, given the surrounding area comprises similar habitat and the presence of higher quality habitats to the north-east, the development is unlikely to significantly impact their local populations.

The site is approximately 1.8km away from Liverpool Bay SPA which is designated for its wintering bird populations. No notable species associated with the nearby European designated site were observed utilising the site. The only waders recorded on site were an individual snipe and a single lapwing recorded flying over. Based on the low suitability of the site to support the designation features of the SPA, lack of recent evidence of use by qualifying bird species, availability of more suitable local habitats to the north-east and the results of the surveys, the site is not considered to be important or to act as functionally-linked land for any qualifying bird species of the Liverpool Bay SPA, or for significant populations of any other wintering birds.

4.2 Recommendations

The majority of the site comprises modified grassland. This habitat is, in general, of limited value to wildlife; however, higher quality habitats such as the hedgerows, scrub, trees and woodland provide foraging and breeding opportunities for birds locally. In general, these features are expected to, and should be retained as part of any future development, with the exception of small areas that require removal to facilitate access or due to deteriorating condition of trees and associated health and safety concerns.

A wildlife friendly landscaping scheme should be designed as part of the proposed development, which should include native species planting and habitat creation to ensure the scheme provides a net benefit in biodiversity, with sufficient compensation provided for foraging and nesting birds. Principles and landscaping ideas relevant to the site and beneficial to a variety of bird species present locally include:

- Planting of berry and nut bearing shrub species to encourage winter birds
- Planting and management of shrubs which develop a mosaic of structures to support breeding birds
- Use of nectar bearing flowers to encourage invertebrates (such as bees, beetles, flies and butterflies)
- Use of climbers to increase the amount of green space
- Planting of native trees and hedgerows to provide both foraging and nesting opportunities
- Creation of areas of short grassland suitable for foraging garden bird species
- Creation of marshy grassland within SuDS basins and swales.

Planted species should be native, of local provenance, and have known benefits to biodiversity.

When considering future management of the retained and newly created habitats on site, excessive removal or pruning of shrubs should be avoided to maximise growth and plant matter available to wildlife. Pruning should be left until late winter to leave seeds and berries for wintering wildlife and ensure no impact on breeding / nesting birds.

5 CONCLUSION

The site has an area of approximately 15.1ha and is comprised of modified grassland, with small areas of mixed scrub, species-rich and other native hedgerows, a line of trees, and scattered trees across the site. The site supports a moderately diverse wintering bird assemblage, with 36 species recorded across the five wintering bird surveys, all of which are typical of the habitats present. A total of 19 species of conservation concern were recorded during the surveys, including 6 Section 7 species, 1 Schedule 1 species, 6 BoCC Red List species and 13 BoCC Amber List species.

The majority of activity recorded was associated with the boundary hedgerows and trees. The retention and management of the majority of the hedgerows, trees and woodland areas will ensure suitable habitat is retained onsite for these species in the long-term. In addition, given that the wider area is a mixture of open farmland and small villages, habitats in the surrounding landscape are considered to have the ability to absorb any displaced birds, particularly where linked with the site via high quality landscape corridors.

The loss of grassland habitat will result in reduced foraging opportunities for corvids, gulls, and thrushes. However, many of these species do not have strict habitat requirements and they are all species that are widespread and common within North Wales and the UK. Therefore, the loss of these habitats is unlikely to significantly affect their local and national populations.

Based on the relatively low quality of habitats onsite, lack of recent evidence of use by qualifying bird species of the Liverpool Bay SPA, availability of more suitable local habitats and the results of the surveys, the site is not considered to be important for the qualifying bird species of the Liverpool Bay SPA, or for significant populations of any other overwintering bird species.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site plan


Land off St George's Road, Abergele
Development boundary
Survey boundary
Transect route
Start/Finish
Map data © 2026 Google, Imagery © 2026 Google

Appendix 2 – Survey results



Wintering Bird Survey

Surveyors: Jonathan Heayns & Harry Fox

Date: 27/11/2025
Start: 12:15
Finish: 15:00

Temp: 13°C
Wind: Moderate breeze
Rain: Light (consistent)
CC: 6/8

Notes: Windy, clear and mild. Summary - low density of common passerine species restricted to the mature trees and hedgerows. Good habitat is present 100-200m north of site with wet arable grassland, large flocks of lapwings (30+).

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Wintering Bird Survey

Surveyors: Jonathan Heayns & Matthew Inthone Chao

Date: 18/12/2025
Start: 08:40
Finish: 10:20

Temp: 8°C
Wind: Calm
Rain: None
CC: 8/8

Notes: dry overcast. Similar species to previous survey with small passerines recorded using the boundary hedgerows and trees. Large groups of gulls foraging in grasslands. No species recorded that are associated with Liverpool bay SPA.

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Wintering Bird Survey

Surveyors: Jonathan Heayns & Osian Shirley

Date: 21/01/2026
Start: 11:55
Finish: 13:45

Temp: 6°C
Wind: Light breeze
Rain: Moderate (consistent)
CC: 8/8

Notes: Low activity overall, with common passerines recorded throughout site. Gulls foraging on sports field. High numbers of corvids (mainly jackdaw) around the buildings in the southeast. No species from Liverpool Bay SPA citation.

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Wintering Bird Survey

Surveyors: Jonathan Heayns

Date: 19/02/2026
Start: 10:30
Finish: 12:30

Temp: 4°C
Wind: Light air
Rain: None
CC: 8/8

Notes: Low activity overall. Most species recorded along the hedgerow/woodland path to the west. Multiple greenfinch, song thrush and dunnock calling and singing. Common gull foraging on football field. No species forming Liverpool Bay SPA citation.

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Wintering Bird Survey

Surveyors: Jonathan Heayns & Osian Shirley

Date: 19/03/2026
Start: 10:00
Finish: 12:30

Temp: 11°C
Wind: Light air
Rain: None
CC: 0/8

Notes: Activity dominated by common species using boundary features. More singing birds than previous surveys. No species associated with SPA.

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Appendix 3 – Species list

Latin name	English name	BTO conservation status	Schedule 1 species	Section 7 species	UK BAP species
Turdus merula	Blackbird	Green			
Chroicocephalus ridibundus	Black-headed gull	Amber			
Cyanistes caeruleus	Blue tit	Green			
Buteo buteo	Buzzard	Green			
Corvus corone	Carrion Crow	Green			
Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch	Green			
Phylloscopus collybita	Chiffchaff	Green			
Larus canus	Common gull	Amber			
Prunella modularis	Dunnock	Amber		✓	✓
Columba livia	Feral pigeon	Green			
Carduelis carduelis	Goldfinch	Green			
Parus major	Great tit	Green			
Chloris chloris	Greenfinch	Red			
Motacilla cinerea	Grey wagtail	Amber			
Larus argentatus	Herring Gull	Red		✓	✓
Passer domesticus	House sparrow	Red		✓	✓
Coloeus monedula	Jackdaw	Green		✓	✓
Garrulus glandarius	Jay	Green			
Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing	Red			
Larus fuscus	Lesser black-backed gull	Amber			
Aegithalos caudatus	Long-tailed tit	Green			
Pica pica	Magpie	Green			
Anthus pratensis	Meadow pipit	Amber			
Turdus viscivorus	Mistle thrush	Red			
Motacilla alba	Pied wagtail	Green			
Corvus corax	Raven	Green			
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	Amber	✓		
Erithacus rubecula	Robin	Green			
Corvus frugilegus	Rook	Amber			
Carduelis spinus	Siskin	Green			
Gallinago gallinago	Snipe	Amber			
Turdus philomelos	Song thrush	Amber		✓	✓
Sturnus vulgaris	Starling	Red		✓	✓
Columba oenas	Stock dove	Amber			
Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	Amber			
Troglodytes troglodytes	Wren	Amber			

Appendix 4 – Statutory and planning context

STATUTORY AND PLANNING CONTEXT

Ecological assessments

Ecological assessments play an important part within the planning context; they include an initial assessment which highlights any specific interests of a site. From the initial site assessment, the surveyor assesses the suitability of habitats within the site to support protected species and makes recommendations for further survey works if required. The following paragraphs provide a brief interpretation of the legislative protection that is relevant to the findings of this report.

Habitats

Section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) places a duty on Welsh Ministers to publish, review and revise lists of types of habitats and species in Wales which they consider are of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity. The Welsh Ministers must also take all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the habitats published in these lists, and encourage others to take such steps.

Birds

All wild birds, their nests and young are protected throughout England and Wales by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is illegal to kill, injure or take any wild bird, or damage or destroy the nest or eggs of breeding birds. The legislation applies to all bird species, common and rare.

In addition to the protection afforded to all wild birds, more vulnerable species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act receive enhanced protection when breeding. Schedule 1 species, including their dependent young, are protected from intentional or reckless disturbance whilst at or near the nest, in addition to the protection afforded the more common species.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 offers further protection to the nests of some species that regularly re-use their nests, even when the nests are not in use.

The leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK have reviewed the population status' of 244 UK bird species. "Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the Red List for Birds" is the most recent publication summarising their findings. Three lists, Red, Amber and Green, have been produced based on the most up-to-date evidence available and criteria include conservation status at global and European levels and, within the UK: historical decline, trends in population and range, rarity, localised distribution and international importance. These lists are a valuable resource when considering conservation priorities.

Planning Policy

National planning guidance is issued in the form of Planning Policy Wales (PPW - 2018). The most relevant sections are included in Chapter 6: Distinctive and Natural Places. This chapter details the policies on issues such as the protection of trees, woodlands, species, and designated sites. The document is free and available to view online