



Baseline Ornithology Report – Breeding Bird Surveys

St Asaph Solar Farm

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Basis of Report

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BOU	British Ornithologists' Union
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
EC	European Council
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MAGIC	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SLR	SLR Consulting Limited
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended)



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

SLR Consulting Ltd (SLR) was commissioned by Anesco Limited to carry out baseline bird surveys during the 2025 breeding season at the proposed Solar Farm development at St Asaph. This report documents the methods and results of those surveys.

1.2 Background

SLR was previously instructed to provide ecological support in relation to the proposed solar farm at St Asaph in December 2021. Since that date, extensive ecological surveys have been undertaken which have fed into the Site design and final layout.

1.3 Site Description

The Site is situated in Denbighshire, approximately 1km to the southwest of the settlement of St Asaph, and approximately 8km south of the seaside town of Rhyl. The Site boundary is shown in **Figure 1**. The Site consists of the main Solar Site and the Cable Route, connecting to the St Asaph Substation.

The Solar Site is approximately 35.42ha in extent and is divided into two areas approximately 250m apart. The Western Parcel comprises a set of four fields approximately centred on NGR SJ 02123 72727 and the Eastern Parcel consists of three fields approximately centred on NGR SJ 02644 72614. The current Site layout (Drawing C0002452_01 Revision Z, issued April 2026) excludes any proposed development or alterations within the northern-most field within western parcel under this proposal.

The fields within the Solar Site support modified grassland, of a short to medium sward length used for cattle and sheep grazing. The boundaries of the fields consist of flailed hedgerows, some containing mature trees, and of semi-natural, lowland mixed deciduous woodland.

The Cable Route is limited to highways that connect the Solar Site to St Asaph Substation. This includes the track to Tyn Y Coed, Glascoed Road, and Cwttir Lane.

The wider landscape is generally farmland used for grazing or arable crops, there are also several woodlands, some of which are ancient.

1.4 Evidence of Technical Competence and Experience

Surveys were undertaken by Guy Ostler BSc, a Senior Ecologist at SLR with four years of professional ornithological survey experience, and a Qualifying member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Additional surveys were undertaken by Toby Bell MSc, a Project Ecologist at SLR with two years of professional ornithological survey experience. The report was authored by Guy Ostler (see above) and Harvey Binstead, a Graduate Ornithologist at SLR with experience in conducting breeding bird surveys and writing ornithology reports, and a Qualifying member of CIEEM.

An initial quality assurance review was conducted by Emma Clarke BSc, Senior Ecologist at SLR and Qualifying member of CIEEM, with 7 years' experience as a professional Ecologist. The final technical review and report approval was provided by Gary Oliver, Full Member of CIEEM (MCIEEM), a Principal Ecologist with SLR having over 29 years' relevant experience.



1.5 Nomenclature

The phylogenetic order and nomenclature throughout this report follows The British List (10th Edition)¹, updated by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) Records Committee. A full list of the species referred to in this report, including scientific names, is provided in **Appendix B**.

1.6 Legislative background

1.6.1 Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (amended 2026)

Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (amended 2026) requires the publication of a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The Section 7 list is used to guide authorities in implementing their duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity.

1.6.2 Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Section 1, Part I of the WCA 1981 (as amended) makes it an offence (with certain limited exceptions and in the absence of a licence) to intentionally:

- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
- damage, take or destroy its nest while that nest is in use or being built;
- take or destroy its eggs; or
- disturb any bird species listed under Schedule 1 to the Act, or its dependent young while it is nesting

A person shall also be guilty of an offence if they possess or control any live or dead wild bird or any part of, or anything derived, from such a bird, or an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg.

1.7 Conservation Frameworks

Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) identifies species which are declining, or appear to be in need of conservation action- see Table 2-1 in Section 2.2.1 for BoCC criteria.

¹ British Ornithologists' Union. 2022. The British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (10th edition), Ibis 164: pp.860 – 910.



2.0 Methods

2.1 Desk Study

2.1.1 Designated Sites

The Natural Resources Wales designated sites website² was consulted and a data search requested from Cofnod, the local environmental record centre North Wales, to provide information on:

- Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites within 20km of the Solar Site boundary; and
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR) with ornithological interest features, and RSPB reserves, within 2km of the Solar Site boundary.

2.1.2 Bird Records

Data searches were undertaken for records of protected and conservation priority species, which are those listed on:

- Annex I of European Council (EC) directive 2009/147/EC ('the Birds Directive');
- Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
- Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (amended 2026);
- Birds of Conservation Concern UK (BoCCUK)³ Red and Amber; and
- Birds of Conservation Concern Wales (BoCCW)⁴ Red and Amber.

Searches were undertaken with the following organisations:

- COFNOD, for records from within 2km of the Solar Site boundary.

2.2 Field Survey

2.2.1 Breeding Bird Walkover Surveys

Breeding bird surveys followed the methodology described by the Bird Survey Guidelines⁵, which involved the surveyor walking a transect at a slow, steady pace, ensuring all accessible land within the Solar Site plus a 100m buffer was covered (see **Figure 1** for surveyed area). The route approached all parts of the survey area to within 50m where possible, and otherwise such that the surveyor could observe all parts of the survey area (e.g. from the edge of an arable field). All visual and auditory contact with all target species

² Natural Resources Wales / Find protected areas of land and sea

³ 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: 723-747. Available online at <https://britishbirds.co.uk/content/status-our-bird-populations>.

⁴ Johnstone, I.G., Hughes, J., Balmer, D.E., Brenchley, A., Facey, R.J., Lindley, P.J., Noble, D.G. and Taylor, R.C. Online First. Birds of Conservation Concern Wales 4: the population status of birds in Wales. Milvus: the Journal of the Welsh Ornithological Society. Consolidated list available online at [BoCCW4-consolidated-list-September-2024.pdf](#).

⁵ Bird Survey and Assessment Steering Group. 2025. Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org/> Accessed March 2025.



was recorded, mapping the locations on a field map using BTO species codes. Behavioural notation was used to record the bird behaviour for each encounter (e.g., singing, alarm calling and flight paths). Target species were all species listed on Annex I, Schedule 1, NERC Section 41, BoCCUK Red or Amber, and BoCCW Red or Amber. The only omitted species were those Amber species listed for meeting the criteria for breeding international importance, rather than for population decline or rarity. Secondary species were other species of regional or local conservation concern and recording of such species was subsidiary to that of target species. Table 2-1 details the Birds of Conservation Concern criteria.

Table 2-1 Birds of Conservation Concern Criteria

Red criteria	Amber criteria
Species that are globally threatened according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria.	Species of European Conservation Concern.
Species with an historical decline in breeding population which have not shown a substantial recent recovery.	Species whose population has declined historically but which have made a substantial recent recovery.
Species that have shown a severe breeding decline over the last 25 years or longer term.	Species whose breeding population has declined moderately over the last 25 years or longer term.
Species that have shown a severe breeding range decline over the last 25 years or longer term.	Species that have shown a moderate breeding range decline over the last 25 years or longer term.
Species whose non-breeding population has declined over the last 25 years or longer term.	Species whose non-breeding population has declined moderately over the last 25 years or longer term.
	Rare breeders or non-breeding rarity species with internationally important or localised populations.
Green list criteria	
Species that fulfil none of the Red or Amber criteria detailed above at the publication of the most recent edition of BoCCUK, currently 2021, and BoCCW, currently 2022.	

In accordance with the guidelines⁵, six visits were completed across the breeding season on the following dates:

- Visit 1 – 20/03/2025;
- Visit 2 – 15/04/2025;
- Visit 3 – 29/04/2025 (dusk);
- Visit 4 – 13/05/2025;
- Visit 5 – 03/06/2025; and
- Visit 6 – 24/06/2025.

The dates, times and corresponding weather conditions for each survey are provided in **Appendix A**. Surveys were undertaken in suitable weather conditions, avoiding heavy rain, strong winds (Beaufort force >5) and low visibility (e.g. fog).

Five of the surveys were conducted in the early morning, within the window of half an hour before sunrise and 10-11am, with one visit completed in the late evening within the window of the last few hours of the day extending beyond sunset for at least one hour. The direction



that the survey transect route was walked was varied between visits to ensure different parts of the survey area were accessed at different times.

The method aims to measure in what way the survey area is important for avian diversity and which species may be breeding. The results are therefore presented as figures showing all registrations of target species, including behavioural notation, recorded across all visits. The breeding status of target species was determined using the BTO criteria⁶ as detailed in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2: BTO Breeding Bird Status Criteria

Breeding Status	Evidence criteria
Confirmed breeding	• Distraction display or injury feigning. • Used nests or eggshells found (occupied or laid within the survey period). • Recently fledged young or downy young. • Adults entering or leaving a nest site in circumstances indicating occupation. • Nest or an adult sitting on nest. • Adults carrying food for young or faecal sacs. • Nest containing eggs. • Nest with young seen or heard.
Probable breeding	• Pairs observed in suitable nesting habitat in the breeding season. • Permanent territory presumed through registration or territorial behaviour (song etc.) on at least two different days, a survey apart, at the same place. • Display and courtship. • Visiting probable nest site. • Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults. • Building nest or excavating nest hole.
Possible breeding	• Species observed in breeding season in possible nesting habitat. • Singing male(s) present or breeding calls heard in breeding season.
Non-breeding	• Flying over. • Species observed but suspected to be still on migration. • Species observed but suspected to be summering non-breeder.

2.2.2 Territory Analysis

Following the surveys, target species were mapped, and territory analysis was carried out, based on rules set by Marchant (1983) for the BTO's Common Bird Census⁷. A territory was said to be held if one of the following criteria were met:

- Multiple registrations of the same species were detected at roughly the same location (up to 25-50m away) on separate Site visits, with at least one of those registrations showing territorial behaviours (i.e. singing, alarm calling, display, chasing and other aggressive behaviours).

⁶ <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/birdatlas/methods/breeding-evidence> Accessed March 2025

⁷ Bibby, C. J., Burgess, N. D., Hill, D. A., & Mustoe, S. (2000). *Bird Census Techniques* (2nd ed.). Academic Press. ISBN: 0-12-095831-7



- Any evidence of nesting was to be presumed definitive evidence of a territory being held. Signs of nesting include any known nests detected, the feeding of young (or begging calls heard from juveniles), and the carrying of nesting material, food or faecal sacs.
- The detection of juveniles will usually indicate breeding on Site, however caution should be taken as it may be possible that the juveniles have travelled from their nesting site. Therefore, each record of a juvenile is to be treated on a case-by-case basis considering the species' presence and behaviour on Site and general breeding behaviours.

It should be noted that for some species, the standard criteria for determining territories does not work based on breeding behaviours. For colonial nesting species such as rooks, sand martins and gull species, active nests are to be counted and mapped, if encountered.

As house sparrows tend to nest communally in loose colonies, discrete clusters of activity are expected to be found. These clusters to be mapped, and a minimum number of breeding pairs determined using the total number of clusters recorded.

Figures 2-11 visually display all registrations of target species, with different colours used for each survey visit to show any repeat registrations within the same location. The relevant symbology was used to signify behaviours observed.

2.3 Limitations

2.3.1 Desk study

Desk study data is unlikely to be exhaustive, especially in respect of species, and is intended mainly to set a context for the study. It is therefore possible that important species not identified during the data search do in fact occur within the vicinity of the Site. Interpretation of maps and aerial photography has been conducted in good faith, using recent imagery, but it has not been possible to verify the accuracy of any statements relating to land use and habitat context outside of the field study area.

2.3.2 Field Survey

Lack of evidence of a species does not necessarily preclude it from being present at a later date. Due to the nature of the subjects of ecological surveys it is feasible that species that use the Site may not have been recorded by virtue of their seasonality, cryptic behaviour, habit, or random chance.

There were no other limitations to the survey, with timings of visits not deviating from the guidelines.



3.0 Results

3.1 Desk study

3.1.1 Designated sites

Table 3-1 documents those international designated ornithological sites identified within the 20km search area. No RSPB reserves, SSSI's with ornithological interest features or LNR's with ornithological interest features were identified within 2km of the Solar Site.

Table 3-1: Details of Designated Ornithological Sites within the Search Area

Designated site	Distance from the Solar Site at closest point	Qualifying or notified features (breeding only)
Liverpool Bay SPA	8.5km	Qualifying species: Little tern- 6.84% of GB breeding population, common tern- 1.80% of GB breeding population. ⁸
The Dee Estuary SPA, and Ramsar Site	14.42km	Qualifying species: Common tern (breeding)- 3.2% of GB population, little tern (breeding)- 2.9% of GB population. Sandwich tern (breeding)- 2.3% of GB population. Non-qualifying (less than 1% of GB population) species of interest: Leach's petrel (, little egret, hen harrier, merlin, peregrine, short-eared owl, and kingfisher ⁹

3.1.2 Bird Records

3.1.2.1 Local Records Centre

Cofnod returned 551 records of birds within 2km of the Solar Site boundary, including 67 'notable species' that occur in the UK between the months of March and August inclusive ('notable' here referring to those species that have any of the following conservation status'- Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, WCA 1981 Schedule 1, NERC section 41, Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act and Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Red List or BoCC Amber List). These can be found in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 Notable Bird Species within 2km of the Solar Site

Species	No. of Records	Lists
Greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i>	17	BoCC UK Amber
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	13	BoCC UK Amber, BoCC Wales Red, Section 7
Shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i>	1	BoCC UK/ Wales Amber, Section 7
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	229	BoCC UK Amber
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	1	BoCC UK/ Wales Amber, Section 7

⁸ [Liverpool Bay SPA | JNCC - Adviser to Government on Nature Conservation](#)

⁹ [European Site Conservation Objectives for Dee Estuary SPA - UK9013011](#)



Species	No. of Records	Lists
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	62	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 7
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	7	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 41, Section 7
Stock dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	26	BoCC UK Amber
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palambus</i>	509	BoCC UK Amber
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	20	BoCC Wales Amber, Section 7
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	1	BoCC UK/ Wales Amber, Section 7
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	8	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 41, Section 7
Little ringed plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	44	Schedule 1
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	1	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 41, Section 7
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	7	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 7
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	54	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 7
Black-headed gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	170	BoCC UK Amber, BoCC Wales Red, Section 7
Mediterranean gull <i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	3	BoCC UK/ Wales Amber, Schedule 1, Annex 1, Section 7
Common gull <i>Larus canus</i>	55	BoCC UK Red, BoCC Wales Amber, Section 7
Great black-backed gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	18	BoCC UK Red, BoCC Wales Amber, Section 7
Herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	413	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 41, Section 7
Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	138	BoCC UK Amber, BoCC Wales Red, Section 7
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1	BoCC UK/ Wales Amber, Schedule 1, Annex 1, Section 7
Eurasian Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	4	BoCC Wales Amber, Schedule 1, Section 7
Red kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	13	Schedule 1, Annex 1
Barn owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	8	Schedule 1
Short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	1	BoCC UK/ Wales Amber, Annex 1, Section 7
Tawny owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	10	BoCC UK Amber
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	47	BoCC UK Amber, Schedule 1, Annex 1
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	57	BoCC UK Amber, BoCC Wales Red, Section 7
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	3	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Schedule 1, Annex 1, Section 7
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	6	Schedule 1
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	27	Schedule 1, Annex 1
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	236	BoCC UK Amber, BoCC Wales Red, Section 7
Coal tit <i>Periparus ater</i>	82	BoCC Wales Amber, Section 7
Marsh tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	4	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 41, Section 7



Species	No. of Records	Lists
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	9	BoCC UK Red, BoCC Wales Amber, Section 41, Section 7
House martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	101	BoCC UK Red, BoCC Wales Amber, Section 7
Wood warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	3	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 41, Section 7
Willow warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	44	BoCC UK Amber, BoCC Wales Red, Section 7
Sedge warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	9	BoCC UK Amber
Grasshopper warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	3	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 41, Section 7
Garden warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	12	BoCC Wales Amber, Section 7
Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	53	BoCC UK Amber, BoCC Wales Red, Section 7
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	82	BoCC Wales Red, Section 7
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	374	BoCC UK Amber
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	236	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 41, Section 7
Song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	221	BoCC UK Amber, Section 41, Section 7
Mistle thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	213	BoCC UK Red, BoCC Wales Amber, Section 7
Ring ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	2	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 41, Section 7
Spotted flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	9	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 41, Section 7
Pied flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	5	BoCC UK Red, BoCC Wales Amber, Section 7
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	34	BoCC UK Amber
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 7
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	3	BoCC UK/ Wales Amber, Section 7
Tree sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	73	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 41, Section 7
House sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	372	BoCC UK/ Wales Amber, Section 41, Section 7
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	286	BoCC UK/ Wales Amber, Section 41, Section 7
Grey wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	132	BoCC UK/ Wales Amber, Section 7
Meadow pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	49	BoCC UK Amber, BoCC Wales Red, Section 7
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	15	BoCC UK Red, BoCC Wales Amber, Section 41, Section 7
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	157	BoCC UK/ Wales Amber, Section 41, Section 7
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	108	BoCC UK/ Wales Red, Section 7
Twite <i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	2	BoCC UK Red, BoCC Wales Amber, Section 41, Section 7



Species	No. of Records	Lists
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	30	BoCC UK Red, BoCC Wales Amber, Section 41, Section 7
Lesser redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	26	BoCC UK Red, Section 41, Section 7
Reed bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	5	BoCC UK Amber, Section 41, Section 7

3.2 Breeding Bird Surveys

3.2.1 Target Species

Table 3-3 summarises the observations for each target species, their distribution and abundance within the survey area, and their identified breeding status. **Figures 2-11** illustrate all registrations from all visits for each target species.

Three species on the BoCCUK Amber List (with no other target species status), stock dove, woodpigeon and wren, were omitted as target species on the basis that they are listed because the UK holds more than 20% of their European breeding populations, rather than for population decline or rarity.

A total of 28 target species were recorded within the survey area during the survey visits, and one additional target species was recorded incidentally, whilst undertaking other survey work, namely barn owl.

Table 3-3: Summary of Target Species Observations and Breeding Status

Target species	Summary of observations	Breeding status within survey area
Mallard (Figure 11)	Mallard was observed during four of the survey visits (Visits 1, 2, 3, and 5), and was considered to probably be breeding, with pairs observed in suitable habitat, and pairs or individuals observed in most of the ponds, pools, ditches and streams across the Site (although it's important to note that the same birds may have been observed in multiple areas during a single visit, with birds flying between water bodies, especially as birds were often accidentally flushed by the surveyor). One likely territory was in the northern part of the Western parcel with a pair observed in that area during two separate visits, and another likely territory was in the northern part of the Eastern Parcel, with a pair observed on the ground in a woodland there during Visit 2, and individuals observed on a pool there during three other visits.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 2-3)
Teal (Figure 9)	Teal was observed during two of the survey visits (Visits 1 and 2), and was considered to possibly be non-breeding as they were not observed after mid-April (mid-April being the start of its main breeding season), suggesting the species is more likely to use the Site for non-breeding purposes, moving elsewhere to breed later in the year. All observations took place in the southern part of the Eastern parcel with three birds being flushed from a pool by a stream and a male being flushed from a pool in woodland during Visit 1, and two birds in flight during Visit 2.	Non-breeding
Swift (Figure 8)	Swift was observed during one visit only, and was considered to possibly be breeding, as there may be suitable habitat on	Possibly breeding



Target species	Summary of observations	Breeding status within survey area
	buildings adjacent to the Site. During Visit 5, two swifts were observed flying over the northern part of the Eastern parcel, calling.	
Moorhen (Figure 11)	Moorhen was observed during one visit only, and was considered to probably be breeding, with a likely male and female pair observed in suitable habitat. During Visit 6, a pair were observed calling on a stream-side pool in the southern part of the Eastern Parcel.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 1)
Snipe (Figure 10)	Snipe was observed during one visit only, and was considered to be non-breeding, with no suitable breeding habitat thought to be present on the Site. During Visit 1, two snipe were observed flying over the northern part of the Western parcel, calling.	Non-breeding
Herring gull (Figure 4)	Herring gull was observed during four of the survey visits (Visits 1, 2, 3, and 5), and was considered to be non-breeding, with no suitable breeding habitat thought to be present on the Site. All observations were of birds in flight over the Site (with a minimum flock count of 1 and a maximum flock count of 6) with observations in both the Eastern Parcel and Western Parcel.	Non-breeding
Lesser black-backed gull (Figure 7)	Lesser black-backed gull was observed during one visit only (Visit 6), and was considered to be non-breeding, with no suitable habitat thought to be present on the Site. During Visit 6, an individual bird and, separately a pair of birds, were observed in flight over the Site.	Non-breeding
Barn owl (Figure 2)	Although there were no observations of barn owl during the breeding bird survey visits, an incidental observation was made by surveyors conducting a bat survey for SLR, when a barn owl was heard screeching in the general vicinity of the farm buildings between the Eastern and Western Parcels, on 16 th July 2025. A local resident also told an SLR surveyor (during the same bat survey) that barn owls use the farm buildings (although it was not said specifically what they used them for).	Possibly breeding (off-Site)
Hobby (Figure 2)	Hobby was observed during one Visit only (Visit 4) but also on another occasion, incidentally, in July 2025. Hobby was thought to possibly be breeding on Site but if it was not breeding on the Site itself, the Site was likely to support breeding due to associated foraging habitat. During Visit 4, a hobby was observed perched in a tree near the centre of the Western Parcel, before taking off, calling, and flying to the north-west. A further incidental observation of hobby was made by one of the surveyors who carried out the breeding bird surveys whilst on Site deploying static bat detectors on 16 th July 2025. On this occasion a hobby was observed in the southern part of the Western Parcel, mostly in flight hunting hirundines and occasionally perching in trees.	Possibly breeding
Magpie (Figure 10)	Magpie was observed during four of the survey visits (Visits 1, 2, 4 and 6) and was considered to possibly be breeding. There were nine observations in total of individuals and pairs of birds (although unclear whether male and female pairs), with recorded behaviours being calling, foraging and flying. Most activity was in trees and woodland around the Site perimeter in both the Eastern and Western Parcels.	Possibly breeding



Target species	Summary of observations	Breeding status within survey area
Rook (Figure 8)	Rook was observed during one visit only, and was considered to possibly be breeding, although this is thought unlikely as rook is typically a colonial breeder and usually conspicuous when breeding. During Visit 6, a flock of 29 rooks was observed foraging in a field adjacent to the south-eastern part of the Eastern Parcel, outside the Site boundary.	Possibly breeding
Coal tit (Figure 9)	Coal tit was observed during three of the survey visits (Visits 1, 2 and 4), and was considered to probably be breeding, with a singing bird observed singing in the same location on two separate visits. This likely territory was located within trees on the Site boundary in the south-western part of the Eastern Parcel, with a singing bird observed during both Visit 1 and Visit 2. Birds not displaying breeding behaviour were observed in woodland and trees outside the Site boundary.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 1-3)
House martin (Figure 9)	House martin was observed during one visit only, and was considered to possibly be breeding, as there may be suitable habitat on buildings adjacent to the Site. During Visit 6, seven house martins were observed ariel foraging over the southern part of the Western Parcel.	Possibly breeding
Willow warbler (Figure 6)	Willow warbler was observed during one visit only (Visit 2) and was considered to possibly be breeding. During Visit 2, there were eight observations, all of singing individuals, all within trees and woodland around the perimeter of the Eastern Parcel.	Possibly breeding
Whitethroat (Figure 6)	Whitethroat was observed during three of the survey visits (Visits 3, 4 and 5) and was considered to possibly be breeding. There were five observations, all of singing birds in hedgerows and trees around the Site perimeter in both the Eastern and Western parcels, but no territories were identified.	Possibly breeding
Goldcrest (Figure 7)	Goldcrest was observed during three of the survey visits (Visits 2, 5 and 6) and was considered to possibly be breeding. There were three observations, all of singing birds in woodland and trees around the perimeter of the Eastern Parcel, but no territories were identified.	Possibly breeding
Starling (Figure 3)	Starling was observed during two of the survey visits (Visits 1 and 6) and was considered to possibly be breeding. During Visit 1, an individual was observed perched in a tree on the western perimeter of the Western Parcel. During Visit 6, an individual was observed calling close to the road between the Eastern and Western Parcels, outside the Site boundary.	Possibly breeding
Song thrush (Figure 5)	Song thrush was observed during all survey visits, and was considered to probably be breeding, with multiple probable territories identified across the Site. Probable territories were identified in hedgerows, trees and woodlands throughout the Site, mainly around the perimeter with seven probable territories identified in the Western Parcel and another seven probable territories identified in the Eastern Parcel. Territories were identified by observations of singing males observed in the same place on different visits, a survey apart.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 14-17)
Mistle thrush (Figure 10)	Mistle thrush was observed during all survey visits and was considered to probably be breeding. Individual singing birds were observed in trees and woodland around the perimeter of	Probably breeding



Target species	Summary of observations	Breeding status within survey area
	both the Eastern and Western Parcels, and three probable territories were identified, with two in the Western Parcel, and one in the Eastern Parcel.	(estimated territories: 3-5)
Redwing (Figure 2)	Redwing was only observed during one survey visit (Visit 1) and was considered to be non-breeding as the species is not known to breed in this region, but is a fairly widespread non-breeding species. During Visit 1, there were three observations of redwing, with a peak flock count of 6, in trees and woodland around the perimeter of the Eastern Parcel.	Non-breeding
Spotted flycatcher (Figure 4)	Spotted flycatcher was only observed during one survey visit (Visit 6) and was confirmed to be breeding, as recently fledged juveniles were observed. During Visit 6, at least one adult and two juveniles begging for food were observed in trees and woodland on the south-western perimeter of the Eastern Parcel.	Confirmed breeding (estimated territories: 1)
Redstart (Figure 11)	Redstart was observed during all survey visits except Visit 1, and was confirmed to be breeding, as recently fledged juveniles were observed. Individual birds including singing males were observed in trees and woodland across both the Site, in both the Eastern and Western parcels, mainly around the perimeter. During Visit 6, an adult male was observed feeding two juveniles in trees on the western perimeter of the Western Parcel. Two other additional territories were also identified, with one in the Western Parcel and one in the Eastern Parcel.	Confirmed breeding (estimated territories: 3-6)
House sparrow (Figure 3)	House sparrow was observed during two of the survey visits (Visits 2 and 5) and was considered to possibly be breeding. Two birds were observed on Visit 2 and an individual was observed on Visit 5, with both observations made around the farm buildings between the Eastern and Western Parcels.	Possibly breeding
Dunnock (Figure 4)	Dunnock was observed during all of the survey visits, and was considered to probably be breeding, with 12 probable territories identified across the Site. Five probable territories were identified in the Eastern Parcel and seven probable territories were identified in the Western Parcel, mainly in trees and woodlands around the Site perimeter, with singing males being observed in the same place on more than one visit, a survey apart, and male and female pairs observed in suitable habitat.	Probably breeding (estimated territories 12-16)
Meadow pipit (Figure 8)	Meadow pipit was only observed during one survey visit (Visit 1) and was considered to be non-breeding, as no suitable breeding habitat was identified on Site. There were three observations of small flocks of foraging birds, with two observations made in the Western Parcel and one observation made in the Eastern Parcel.	Non-breeding
Chaffinch (Figure 9)	Chaffinch was observed during all survey visits and was considered to probably be breeding, with five probable territories identified. Individual singing males were observed in trees and woodland across both the Eastern and Western Parcels, mainly around the perimeter. One territory was identified in the Western Parcel and four territories were identified in the Eastern Parcel, with singing males being observed in the same place on more than one visit, a survey apart.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 5-7)



Target species	Summary of observations	Breeding status within survey area
Bullfinch (Figure 3)	Bullfinch was only observed during one survey visit (Visit 6) and was considered to possibly be breeding. During Visit 6, a male was observed landing in scrub close to the farm buildings between the Eastern and Western Parcels, outside the Site boundary.	Possibly breeding
Greenfinch (Figure 7)	Greenfinch was observed during four of the survey visits (Visits 2, 3, 5 and 6) and was considered to probably be breeding. Singing males were observed in trees and scrub around the Site perimeter in both the Eastern and Western parcels, and there were nine observations of greenfinch in total. One probable territory was identified around the farm building between the Eastern and Western Parcels, with a singing male observed on three consecutive visits.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 1-5)
Linnet (Figure 3)	Linnet was observed during three of the survey visits (Visits 2, 3 and 4) and was considered to possibly be breeding. There were three observations around the western perimeter of the Western Parcel, and one observation on the eastern perimeter of the Eastern parcel, but no breeding activity was observed.	Possibly breeding

Non-Target Species

A total of 25 non-target species were recorded within the survey area. Non-target species were those that are on both the BoCCUK and BoCCW Green Lists, those not assessed for either or both of BoCCUK and BoCCW, or those on the BoCCUK Amber List (with no other target species status) that are listed because the UK holds more than 20% of their breeding populations, rather than for population decline or rarity.

Non-target species recorded within the survey area were; pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*, feral pigeon *Columba livia*, stock dove, woodpigeon, collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, buzzard *Buteo buteo*, great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*, jay *Garrulus glandarius*, jackdaw *Corvus monedula*, carrion crow *Corvus corone*, raven *Corvus corax*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, great tit *Parus major*, swallow *Hirundo rustica*, long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*, chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, lesser whitethroat *Curruca curruca*, wren, nuthatch *Sitta europaea*, treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, pied wagtail *Motacilla alba* and goldfinch *Caruelis caruelis*.

Of the non-target species, three were confirmed to be breeding within the survey area; blue tit (an adult was observed carrying food), long-tailed tit (a pair were observed carrying nesting material) and robin (a recently fledged juvenile was observed).

Eight of the non-target species were considered to probably be breeding within the survey area, namely feral pigeon, woodpigeon, great tit, chiffchaff, blackcap, wren, blackbird and goldfinch.

Thirteen of the non-target species were considered to possibly be breeding within the survey area, namely pheasant, stock dove, collared dove, buzzard, great spotted woodpecker, jay, jackdaw, carrion crow, raven, swallow, lesser whitethroat, nuthatch, treecreeper and pied wagtail.



4.0 Summary

4.1 Legal and Conservation Status of Target Species Recorded

Table 4-1 provides a summary of the target species recorded during the baseline surveys, their activity within the survey area, as well as their legal and conservation status, Welsh breeding status and UK breeding populations. Species are listed according to the following hierarchy of legislative/ conservation status: Annex 1 (although no Annex 1 species were recorded), Schedule 1, Section 7, BoCC Wales Red List, BoCC Wales Amber List, BoCC UK Red List, BoCC UK Amber List. Where a species has multiple legislative/conservation status, the highest status in this hierarchy takes precedence in the table. No target species were qualifying or notified breeding species for any nearby designated sites.

Table 4-1 Summary of Target Species Results and Legal/Conservation Status

Target species	Legal and conservation status	North-east Wales breeding status ¹⁰	Welsh breeding status ¹¹	UK breeding population ¹²	Summary of observations within the survey area	Site breeding status
Barn owl	Schedule 1 BoCCW: Green BoCCUK: Green	Scarce breeding resident	Uncommon breeding resident in all counties (633-728 pairs). Population probably stable in the long term but annual numbers vary considerably.	UK breeding population: 4,000–14,000 pairs	Incidental observation of a calling barn owl in July 2025, and personal communication from a local resident stating that barn owls use at least one of the farm buildings between the Eastern and Western Parcels, outside the Site boundary.	Possibly breeding (off-Site, in buildings located to the east of the Site boundary).
Hobby	Schedule 1 BoCCW: Green BoCCUK: Green	Rare breeding visitor	Rare but increasing breeder (205 pairs).	UK breeding population: 2,050 pairs	Single observation of a hobby in the Western Parcel during the survey visits and an additional incidental observation of a hobby hunting in the Western Parcel in July	Possibly breeding

¹⁰ Clwyd Bird Recording Group. (2025) *North-East Wales Bird Report 2024*.

¹¹ Welsh Ornithological Society. (2024) *Welsh Bird Report 2023. Milvus. Volume 3 Issue 3 2024*.

¹² <https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/publications/aep4-population-estimates-birds-great-britain-uk-2020.pdf> Last accessed 05/11/2025



Target species	Legal and conservation status	North-east Wales breeding status ¹⁰	Welsh breeding status ¹¹	UK breeding population ¹²	Summary of observations within the survey area	Site breeding status
					2025. Likely to be breeding in the general area, if not breeding on Site.	
Redwing	Schedule 1 BoCCW: Green BoCCUK: Amber	Winter visitor only	Winter visitor and passage migrant only.	UK breeding population: 24 pairs	Observed on Visit 1 only. Redwing is a winter visitor and is not known to breed in this region.	Non-breeding
Herring gull	Section 7 BoCCW: Red BoCCUK: Red	Common breeding resident	Fairly common breeder in coastal areas: 9,815 adults on nest at natural sites and 13,766 adults on nest on rooftops.	UK breeding population: 130,000 pairs	Observed in flight over the Site only. There is not thought to be any suitable breeding habitat on the Site.	Non-breeding
Starling	Section 7 BoCCW: Red BoCCUK: Red	Very common breeding resident	Fairly common resident (90,000 breeding pairs).	UK breeding population: 1,750,000 pairs	Observed on two occasions but not exhibiting breeding behaviour.	Possibly breeding
Song thrush	Section 7 BoCCW: Green BoCCUK: Amber	Common breeding resident	Fairly common and widespread resident (160,000 breeding territories).	UK breeding population: 1,300,000 territories	Observed during all survey visits in both the Eastern and Western Parcels with multiple territories identified across the Site.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 14-17)
Spotted flycatcher	Section 7 BoCCW: Red BoCCUK: Red	Uncommon breeding summer visitor	Uncommon and declining summer visitor (5700 breeding territories).	UK breeding population: 41,500 territories	Only observed during one survey visit but confirmed to be breeding within the survey area, with an adult and two recently fledged juveniles observed on the perimeter of the Eastern Parcel during Visit 6.	Confirmed to be breeding (estimated territories: 1)



Target species	Legal and conservation status	North-east Wales breeding status ¹⁰	Welsh breeding status ¹¹	UK breeding population ¹²	Summary of observations within the survey area	Site breeding status
House sparrow	Section 7 BoCCW: Amber BoCCUK: Red	Very common breeding resident	Abundant and widespread resident (800,000 breeding pairs).	UK breeding population: 5,300,000 pairs	Two observations of house sparrow during two of the survey visits, but not exhibiting breeding behaviour, with both observations made around the farm buildings between the Eastern and Western Parcels.	Possibly breeding
Dunnock	Section 7 BoCCW: Amber BoCCUK: Amber	Very common breeding resident	Abundant breeding resident (310,000 territories).	UK breeding population: 2,500,000 territories	Observed during all survey visits in both the Eastern and Western Parcels with multiple territories identified across the Site.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 12-16)
Bullfinch	Section 7 BoCCW: Amber BoCCUK: Amber	Common breeding resident	Fairly common resident in the lowlands, patchier in its distribution in the far west and scarce in the uplands (29,500 breeding territories).	UK breeding population: 265,000 territories	A single observation during one of the survey visits, around the farm buildings between the Eastern and Western Parcels, outside the Site boundary, with no breeding behaviour exhibited.	Possibly breeding
Linnet	Section 7 BoCCW: Red BoCCUK: Red	Common breeding resident	Fairly common resident (47,500 breeding territories).	UK breeding population: 560,000 territories	Four observations during three of the survey visits, with three of these around the perimeter of the Western Parcel and one on the perimeter of the Eastern parcel. No breeding behaviour was observed.	Possibly breeding
Swift	BoCCW: Red BoCCUK: Red	Common but decreasing summer visitor	Localised but declining summer visitor (4100 pairs).	UK breeding population: 59,000 pairs	One observation only of two swifts in flight over the Eastern Parcel, calling. No breeding behaviour was observed.	Possibly breeding



Target species	Legal and conservation status	North-east Wales breeding status ¹⁰	Welsh breeding status ¹¹	UK breeding population ¹²	Summary of observations within the survey area	Site breeding status
Lesser black-backed gull	BoCCW: Red BoCCUK: Amber	Common breeding resident	Breeding summer visitor: 13,084 adults on nest at natural sites and 10,748 adults on nest on rooftops.	UK breeding population: 110,000 pairs	Observed in flight over the Site only. There is not thought to be any suitable breeding habitat on the Site.	Non-breeding
Rook	BoCCW: Red BoCCUK: Amber	Common breeding resident	Fairly common resident, breeding mainly below 300m (estimated 44,127 adults on nest in 2022-2023).	UK breeding population: 980,000 pairs	One observation only of a flock of 29 birds foraging in an arable field adjacent to the south-eastern part of the Eastern Parcel, outside the Site boundary.	Possibly breeding
Willow warbler	BoCCW: Red BoCC UK: Amber	Very common breeding summer visitor	Abundant summer visitor (265,000 breeding territories). Numerous up to c.670m but becoming less common in lowland habitats in the south.	UK breeding population: 2,300,000 territories	Observed during Visit 2 only, during which there were eight observations, all of singing individuals, all within trees and woodland around the perimeter of the Eastern Parcel.	Possibly breeding
Whitethroat	BoCCW: Red BoCCUK: Amber	Common breeding summer visitor	Fairly common and widespread summer visitor (79,500 territories).	UK breeding population: 1,100,000 territories	Five observations across three of the survey visits, all of singing birds in hedgerows and trees around the Site perimeter in both the Eastern and Western parcels, but no territories were identified.	Possibly breeding
Goldcrest	BoCCW: Red BoCCUK: Green	Very common breeding resident	Fairly common resident (85,500 territories).	UK breeding population: 790,000 territories	Three observations across three of the survey visits, three observations, all of singing birds in woodland and trees around the perimeter of the	Possibly breeding



Target species	Legal and conservation status	North-east Wales breeding status ¹⁰	Welsh breeding status ¹¹	UK breeding population ¹²	Summary of observations within the survey area	Site breeding status
					Eastern Parcel, but no territories were identified.	
Meadow pipit	BoCCW: Red BoCCUK: Amber	Common breeding visitor mostly to uplands	Abundant and widespread breeding species, especially on moorland (170,000 pairs).	UK breeding population: 2,450,000 pairs	Three observations during Visit 1 of small foraging flocks. There is not thought to be any suitable breeding habitat on the Site, due to short length of grass swards.	Non-breeding
Greenfinch	BoCCW: Red BoCCUK: Red	Very common breeding resident	Fairly common resident (38,000 pairs), but has declined as a result of <i>Trichomonosis</i> disease.	UK breeding population: 785,000 pairs	Observed during four of the survey visits. Singing males were observed in trees and scrub around the Site perimeter in both the Eastern and Western parcels, and at least one probable territory was identified.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 1-5)
Teal	BoCCW: Amber BoCCUK: Amber	Rare breeding resident	Small numbers (60-250 pairs) breed in the uplands.	UK breeding population: 2,700–4,750 pairs	Observed during the first two visits, on pools in the southern part of the Western parcel. Thought to be wintering birds.	Non-breeding
Snipe	BoCCW: Amber BoCCUK: Amber	Scarce breeding resident locally	Localised but declining breeder (1100 pairs).	UK breeding population: 66,500 pairs	Observed during Visit 1, in flight only. There is not thought to be any suitable habitat on the Site.	Non-breeding
Magpie	BoCCW: Amber BoCCUK: Green	Very common breeding resident	Fairly common and widespread resident (79,500 territories).	UK breeding population: 610,000 territories	Nine observations across four of the survey visits. Most activity was in trees and woodland around the Site perimeter in both the Eastern and Western Parcels.	Possibly breeding



Target species	Legal and conservation status	North-east Wales breeding status ¹⁰	Welsh breeding status ¹¹	UK breeding population ¹²	Summary of observations within the survey area	Site breeding status
Coal tit	BoCCW: Amber BoCCUK: Green	Common breeding resident	Fairly common and widespread resident (75,000 territories), most common in conifer woodlands.	UK breeding population: 660,000 territories	Observed in trees and woodland during three of the survey visits with a likely territory located within trees on the Site boundary in the south-western part of the Eastern Parcel.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 1-3)
House martin	BoCCW: Amber BoCCUK: Red	Common breeding summer visitor	Fairly common summer visitor (67,500 pairs).	UK breeding population: 480,000 pairs	Observed during Visit 6 only, during which seven house martins were ariel foraging over the southern part of the Western Parcel.	Possibly breeding
Mistle thrush	BoCCW: Amber BoCCUK: Red	Common breeding resident	Fairly common resident (26,000 breeding territories).	UK breeding population: 165,000 territories	Observed during all survey visits, Individual singing birds were observed in trees and woodland around the perimeter of both the Eastern and Western Parcels, and three probable territories were identified.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 3-5)
Chaffinch	BoCCW: Amber BoCCUK: Green	Very common breeding resident	Abundant resident (470,000 breeding territories).	UK breeding population: 5,050,000 territories	Observed during all survey visits with five probable territories identified. Activity was mostly in trees and woodland around the perimeter of both Parcels.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 5-7)
Mallard	BoCCW: Green BoCCUK: Amber	Abundant breeding resident	Fairly common breeding resident (4600-11,000 pairs).	UK breeding population: 61,000–145,000 pairs	Observed during four visits with two probable territories identified. Activity was mostly in the ponds, pools, ditches and streams.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 2-3)



Target species	Legal and conservation status	North-east Wales breeding status ¹⁰	Welsh breeding status ¹¹	UK breeding population ¹²	Summary of observations within the survey area	Site breeding status
Moorhen	BoCCW: Green BoCCUK Amber	Common resident in all wetland locations	Fairly common breeding resident (14,500 territories).	UK breeding population: 210,000 territories	Observed during Visit 6 only, with a likely male and female pair on a stream-side pool in the southern part of the Eastern parcel.	Probably breeding (estimated territories: 1)
Redstart	BoCCW: Green BoCCUK: Amber	Fairly common breeding summer visitor	Fairly common summer visitor in deciduous woodland and upland ffridd (50,500 breeding pairs).	UK breeding population: 135,000 pairs	Observed during five of the survey visits with activity mostly in trees and woodland across the Site. Breeding was confirmed, with an adult male observed feeding juveniles.	Confirmed breeding (estimated territories: 3-6)



5.0 Discussion and Evaluation

5.1 Evaluation

A total of 29 target species were recorded within the survey area with 23 of these possibly, probably or confirmed to be breeding. In addition to this, a total of 25 non-target species were recorded with all of these possibly, probably or confirmed to be breeding. The combined total number of species recorded within the survey area was 54, with a combined total of 48 species possibly, probably or confirmed to be breeding.

Using the methodology described by Fuller (1980)¹³ for assessing the ornithological value of a site, it was determined that the species richness of the Solar Site for breeding birds was of local importance, with the threshold for local importance (25 breeding species) being met, but the threshold for county importance (50 or more breeding species) not being met.

With two species with national breeding populations (number of breeding pairs) between 1,001 and 10,000 (barn owl and hobby), and six species with national breeding populations between 10,001 and 100,000 (mallard, swift, buzzard, raven, lesser whitethroat and spotted flycatcher), the breeding community quality was also assessed as being of local importance.

Barn owl is a scarce breeding resident in north-east Wales, with 633-728 breeding pairs in Wales, whilst hobby is a rare summer visitor to north-east Wales and with 205 breeding pairs in Wales.

However, as barn owl does not breed within the Solar Site itself (classified as a probable breeder within buildings located outside of the application site boundary), and as no evidence of nesting by hobby was confirmed (classified as a possible breeder) the Solar Site is not considered to be above local importance for either species.

5.2 Protected Species and Species of Conservation Concern

Of the 29 target species recorded within the survey area (some species feature in multiple lists);

- No species are listed under Annex 1 of the Birds Directive;
- Three species are listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); barn owl, hobby and redwing. Two of these (barn owl and hobby), were possibly breeding and one (redwing) was non-breeding.
- Seven species are listed as Species of Principle Importance under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (amended 2026); herring gull, starling, spotted flycatcher, house sparrow, dunnock, bullfinch and linnet. One of these (spotted flycatcher) was confirmed to be breeding, one (dunnock) was probably breeding, four (starling, house sparrow, bullfinch and linnet) were possibly breeding, and one (herring gull) was non-breeding.
- Eleven species are Red Listed Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales; swift, herring gull, rook, willow warbler, whitethroat, goldcrest, starling, spotted flycatcher, meadow pipit, greenfinch and linnet. One of these (spotted flycatcher) was confirmed to be breeding, eight (swift, rook, willow warbler, whitethroat, goldcrest, starling, greenfinch and linnet) were possibly breeding, and two (herring gull and meadow pipit) were non-breeding.

¹³ Fuller, R.J. (1980). *A method for assessing the ornithological interest of sites for conservation*. Biological Conservation, 17: 229–239



- Ten species are Amber Listed Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales; Teal, snipe, magpie, coal tit, house martin, mistle thrush, house sparrow, dunnock, chaffinch and bullfinch. Four of these (coal tit, dunnock, mistle thrush and chaffinch) were probably breeding, a further four (magpie, house martin, house sparrow and bullfinch) were possibly breeding, and two (teal and snipe) were non-breeding.
- Nine species are Red Listed Birds of Conservation Concern in the UK; Swift, herring gull, house martin, starling, mistle thrush, spotted flycatcher, house sparrow, greenfinch and linnet. One of these (spotted flycatcher) was confirmed to be breeding, two (greenfinch and mistle thrush) were probably breeding, five (swift, house martin, starling, house martin and linnet) were possibly breeding, and one (herring gull) was non-breeding.
- Fourteen species are Amber Listed Birds of Conservation Concern in the UK; mallard, teal, moorhen, snipe, lesser black-backed gull, rook, willow warbler, whitethroat, song thrush, redwing, redstart, dunnock, meadow pipit and bullfinch. One of these (redstart) was confirmed to be breeding, four (mallard, moorhen, song thrush and dunnock) were probably breeding, four (rook, willow warbler, whitethroat and bullfinch) were possibly breeding and five (teal, snipe, lesser black-backed gull, redwing and meadow pipit) were non-breeding. A further three amber listed species in the UK were not target species (see Section 2.21) but were recorded in the survey area; stock dove (possibly breeding), woodpigeon (probably breeding) and wren (probably breeding).

5.3 Habitats

The vast majority of bird activity, including breeding behaviour was observed in and around the hedgerows, woodlands, ponds, ditches, and streams, most of which were around the perimeter of the Solar Site. All of these habitats were species rich. Very little bird activity was observed in the pastures, although some species are likely to forage around the edges. The aforementioned perimeter habitats are all of high importance for breeding birds, and the pastures are of relatively low importance.



6.0 Conclusion

The Site's species richness in the breeding season has been assessed as being of local importance with 48 species possibly, probably or confirmed to be breeding and the quality of the breeding community has also been assessed to be of local importance.

Barn owl is possibly breeding, its presence in the breeding season suggests it is likely to be using the Site to support breeding in the general area. If it is breeding, it is likely to use farm buildings which are just outside the Solar Site boundary, and it is believed to be using these buildings in some capacity. It may use the pastures for foraging, although this is sub-optimal foraging habitat for barn owl. Barn owl is a Schedule 1 species and has legal protection from disturbance whilst breeding. Barn owl breeding usually takes place from early April when egg laying begins, to November, by which time the juveniles will have usually fledged and dispersed¹⁴.

Hobby is also possibly breeding; like barn owl, its presence in the breeding season suggests it is likely to be using the Site to support breeding in the general area. Hobby breeds in old crows' nests in mature trees and there is likely to be ample opportunity for this, especially around the perimeter of the Solar Site and there are plenty of suitable trees in the Western Parcel where a hobby was observed on two occasions. A hobby was observed hunting hirundines (swallows or martins) in the air over the southern pastures in the Western Parcel, so the viability of this habitat for this species to forage in largely depends on its viability for foraging hirundines (as well as swifts and large aerial insects), which in turn depend on the level of abundance of aerial insects. Hobby is a Schedule 1 species and has legal protection from disturbance while breeding. Hobby is a summer visitor to Wales and its breeding season is from April when it can start to occupy its home range (although egg laying doesn't start until late May at the earliest), to mid-October by which time the juveniles will have dispersed¹⁴.

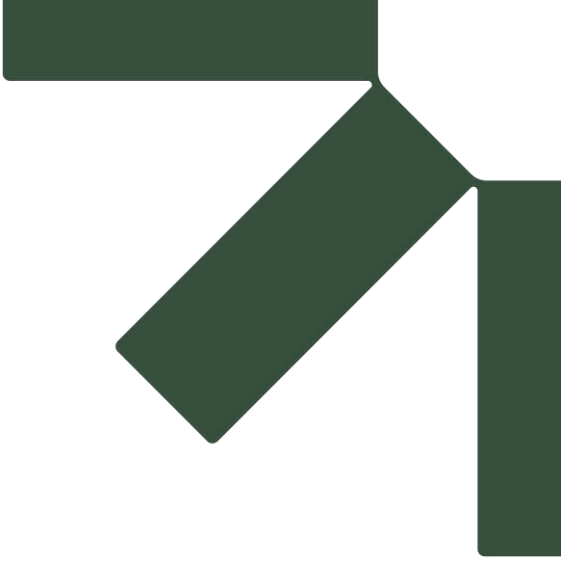
In total, 29 species with legal protection and/or of conservation concern were recorded on the Site, with 23 of these possibly, probably or confirmed to be breeding.

The perimeter habitats including the woodlands, hedgerows, ponds, streams and ditches were all species rich and supported far more species, including target species, than did the pastures, which were relatively species-poor.

In conclusion, the Solar Site's avian diversity in the breeding season has been assessed as being of local importance, but it also supports two potentially breeding Schedule 1 species, namely barn owl (probably nesting in buildings located off-Site) and hobby, which was assessed as being a possible breeder. The Solar Site also supports a range of Section 7 Species of Principle Importance and species of conservation concern in both Wales and the UK. By far the most important habitats for breeding birds on the Site are the woodlands, hedgerows, ponds, streams and ditches, and the pastures are of relatively little value in their current form.

¹⁴ Hardey, J., Crick, H., Wernham, C., Riley, H., Etheridge, B., & Thompson, D. (2013). Raptor monitoring: A field guide to survey and monitoring of raptors (3rd ed.). The Stationery Office.





Figures

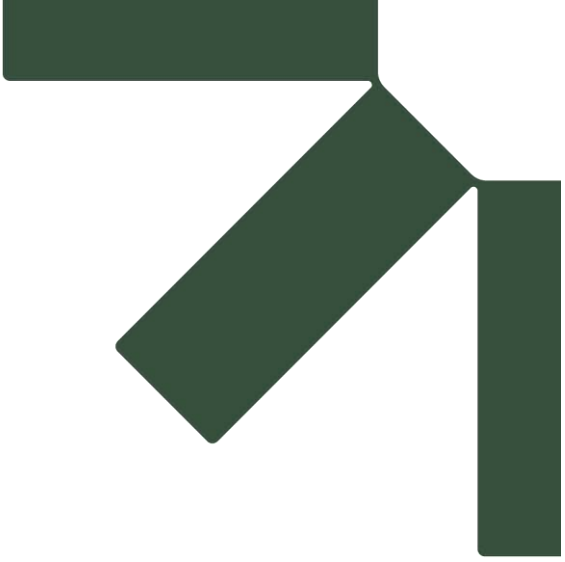
Baseline Ornithology Report –Breeding Bird Surveys

St Asaph Solar Farm

Anesco Limited

SLR Project No.: 406.065274.00001

24 April 2026



Appendix A Survey Metadata

Baseline Ornithology Report –Breeding Bird Surveys

St Asaph Solar Farm

Anesco Limited

SLR Project No.: 406.065274.00001

24 April 2026

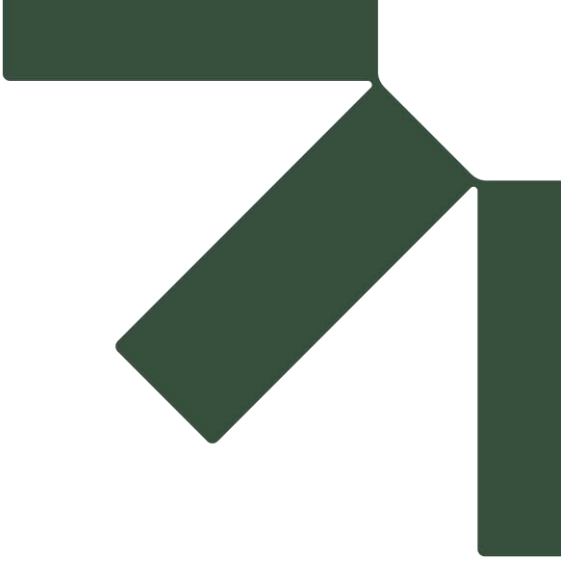
Table 6-1 Survey Timings and Weather Data

Visit	Date	Surveyor initials	Start	End	Cloud cover (Okta)	Cloud height (0- <150m, 1- 150-500m, 2->500m)	Rainfall	Wind (Beaufort scale) ¹⁵ and direction	Visibility (Poor= <1km, Moderate= 1-3km, Good= >3km)	Frost/ Snow	Temperature
1	20/03/2025	GO	06:08	11:00	Start- 2 End- 3	Start- >500m End- >500m	Start- 0 End- 0	Start- 2, S End- SE	Start- Good End- Good	Start- none End- none	Start- 6 °C End- 16 °C
2	15/04/2025	TB	05:44	10:48	Start- 8 End- 8	Start- 150-500m End- 150-500m	Start- 0 End- 0	Start- 1, N/A End- NW	Start- Good End- Good	Start- none End- none	Start- 8 °C End- 9 °C
3	29/04/2025	GO, TB	17:48	21:42	Start- 1 End- 2	Start- >500m End- >500m	Start- 0 End- 0	Start- 1, SE End- SE	Start- Good End- Good	Start- none End- none	Start- 21 °C End- 12 °C
4	13/05/2025	TB	05:03	09:55	Start- 1 End- 1	Start- >500m End- >500m	Start- 0 End- 0	Start- 1, SE End- NE	Start- Good End- Good	Start- none End- none	Start- 10 °C End- 21 °C
5	03/06/2025	TB	05:15	09:55	Start- 8 End- 2	Start- 150-500m End- 150-500m	Start- heavy rain End- 0	Start- 2, SW End- SW	Start- Moderate End- Good	Start- none End- none	Start- 12 °C End- 15 °C
6	24/06/2025	GO	05:06	09:55	Start- 8 End- 6	Start- 150-500m End- 150-500m	Start- light showers End- 0	Start- 2, W End- SW	Start- Good End- Good	Start- none End- none	Start- 15 °C End- 18 °C

GO = Guy Ostler; TB = Toby Bell

¹⁵ <https://www.weather.gov/mfl/beaufort> last accessed 05/11/2025





Appendix B Bird Species Names

Baseline Ornithology Report –Breeding Bird Surveys

St Asaph Solar Farm

Anesco Limited

SLR Project No.: 406.065274.00001

24 April 2026

Table C-1: English and Latin Names of Birds Mentioned in the Report

BTO Code	English Name	Latin name
GJ	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
SU	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
SV	Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
MA	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
T.	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
GN	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
PH	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
SI	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
CK	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
SD	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
WP	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
CD	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
MH	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
CO	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
OC	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
L.	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
LP	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
CU	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
WK	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
SN	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
BH	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
MU	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>
CM	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>
GB	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>
HG	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
LB	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
TE	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
AF	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
CN	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
TL	Leach's Petrel	<i>Hydrobates leucorhous</i>
HW	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
ET	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
OP	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
SH	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
GI	Eurasian Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
HH	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
KT	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
BZ	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
BO	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
SE	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>



BTO Code	English Name	Latin name
TO	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
KF	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
GS	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
K.	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
ML	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
HY	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
PE	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
J.	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
MG	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
JD	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
RO	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
C.	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
RN	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
CT	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
MT	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>
BT	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
GT	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
S.	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
SL	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
HM	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
LT	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
WO	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
WW	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
CC	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
SW	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
GH	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
BC	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
LW	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Currucula curruca</i>
WH	Whitethroat	<i>Currucula communis</i>
GC	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
WR	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
NH	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
TC	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
SG	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
ST	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
M.	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
RE	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
B.	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
RZ	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>
SF	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
R.	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
PF	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>



BTO Code	English Name	Latin name
RT	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
WC	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
W.	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
DI	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
TS	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
HS	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
D.	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
GL	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
PW	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
MP	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
CH	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
HF	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
BF	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
GR	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
TW	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>
LI	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
LR	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>
CR	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
GO	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
RB	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>





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