



Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 3, Annex 3.12: Interim Breeding Birds
Surveys Technical Report

MVCNS-J4029-WSP-00032
October 2026
B01

Document status

Version	Purpose of document	Authored by	Checked by	Approved by	Date
B01	PEIR	DW	GH	LS	October 2026

Prepared by:	Prepared for:
WSP	Morven Offshore Wind Limited

Table of contents

Executive Summary.....	1
1 Introduction	2
1.1 Overview.....	2
1.2 Legislation.....	2
1.3 Consultation and engagement	2
2 Methodology	4
2.1 Overview.....	4
2.2 Study Area.....	4
2.3 Survey Area	4
2.4 Survey methodologies	4
3 Results.....	10
3.1 Desk study.....	10
3.2 Field survey	15
4 Summary	21
5 References.....	22

List of tables

Table 2.1: Breeding bird survey dates and survey coverage.....	5
Table 3.1: Statutory designated sites of ornithological interest within the Breeding Bird Study Area	10
Table 3.2: Non-statutory designated sites of ornithological interest within the Breeding Bird Study Area	11
Table 3.3: Summary of priority bird records obtained from ERIC NE covering the period 2016 to 2025	11
Table 3.4: Breeding bird territories within the Breeding Bird Survey Area (listed in vernacular name alphabetical order)	16

List of figures

Figure 2.1: MHPGC Project Breeding Bird Study Area	8
Figure 2.2: MHPGC Project Breeding Bird Survey Area.....	9
Figure 3.1: MHPGC Project Breeding Bird Ornithological Designated Sites	18
Figure 3.2: MHPGC Project Breeding Bird ERIC NE Records	19
Figure 3.3: MHPGC Project Breeding Bird Results	20

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Desk study	Desk-based research method to collect and analyse existing information within the Study Area, including the review of literature, previous survey reports, databases and maps to inform the baseline environment and further surveys.
Expert Working Group	A topic-specific group of specialists formed under the Evidence Plan Process (EPP) to resolve technical issues and agree approaches for environmental assessments.
Field survey	The direct observation and collection of environmental data in the field, including sampling and recording within the Survey Area.
Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT)	The part of the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate responsible for assessing and administering applications for marine licences for Scottish waters and Section 36 consent (offshore) in Scotland.
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	As a UK government body, the MMO is responsible for licensing, regulating and overseeing activities in the marine environment for English waters and Section 36 consent (offshore) in England.
MHPGC Project Scoping Boundary	The spatial extent of the area used to define the environmental baseline to inform impact assessments at the time the Scoping Report was submitted.
MHPGC Project Scoping Opinions	Separate scoping opinions received from the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) and Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) (on behalf of the Scottish Ministers) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in response to the MHPGC Scoping Report prepared by the Applicants. The MHPGC Scoping Opinions contain the range of issues that the Planning Inspectorate, and MD-LOT in consultation with statutory stakeholders, have identified should be considered within the Environmental Impact Assessment process (EIA).
MHPGC Project Scoping Report	A Scoping Report for the MHPGC Project, scoping the likely significant effects of the MHPGC Project on the environment, submitted and accepted by Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and submitted to the Scottish Ministers, via MD-LOT in February 2025.
MHPGC Project Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	A report that provides preliminary environmental information in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017. This is information that enables consultees to understand the likely significant environmental effects of a project and which helps to inform consultation responses.
MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore	The area within which all components of the MHPGC Project will be located, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction and/or decommissioning (such as construction compounds).
MHPGC Project	The MHPGC Project is comprised of the offshore export cables in Scottish and English waters from the Morven North or the Morven South offshore substation platform(s) (OSP), landfall, onshore export cables, the onshore land substation (LSS) and AC connection cables.
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The PINS is an executive agency of the UK Government responsible for administering and examining DCO applications for NSIPs in England. PINS manages the application process, oversees consultation and examination, and makes a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State on whether consent should be granted.

Term	Meaning
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	A preliminary assessment of the likely significant effects of the MHPGC Project on the physical, biological, and human environment during construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning phases. The PEIR is submitted prior to the preparation of the Environmental Statement and is based on currently available information and is used to inform statutory consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. The MHPGC Project PEIR will be used by the Applicant to support the statutory consultation.
Study Area	For each environmental topic, the baseline environment will be characterised, and the likely significant effect will be described within a topic-specific Study Area. Specific Study Areas are defined for each topic and are based on the maximum spatial extent across which likely significant effects of the MHPGC Project may be experienced by the relevant receptors (i.e. Zone of Influence (Zol)).
Survey Area	The area within which field surveys for the environmental topic are undertaken. This would include all areas for which impacts from the MHPGC Project may occur on relevant receptors.
Zone of Influence (Zol)	The area within which impacts arising from the MHPGC Project could occur upon ecological receptors.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CBC	Common Bird Census
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
ECow	Ecological Clerk of Works
EA	Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ERIC NE	Environmental Records Information Centre North East
ES	Environmental Statement
EWG	Expert Working Group
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
MAGIC	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate-Licensing Operations Team
MHPGC	Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NBN	National Biodiversity Network
NE	Natural England

Acronym	Meaning
NNR	National Nature Reserve
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
SoS	Secretary of State
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPI	Species of Principal Importance
SPP	Species Protection Plan
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act
ZoI	Zone of Influence

Units

Unit	Meaning
km	Kilometre
m	Metre

Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the breeding bird desk study and field surveys undertaken between April to June 2023 and April to July 2025 to inform **Volume 3, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology, of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)**.

The desk study identified six sites with statutory designations and two with non-statutory designations for ornithological interest within the Breeding Bird Study Area. The desk study identified historical records provided from Environmental Records Information Centre North East which included species associated with those designated sites within 10km. These records showed the presence of species designated under the Durham Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the Breeding Bird Study Area.

Field surveys were undertaken to identify species utilising the Breeding Bird Survey Area for the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection (MHPGC) Project, during the breeding season (defined as late-March to early-July). It is noted that the Breeding Bird Study Area has been refined in line with project design refinement between Scoping and PEIR. Specific attention has been given to any species associated with overlapping or nearby designated sites including Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar, Durham Coast SSSI, and Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar, breeding areas (including cliff colonies), or notable aggregations. All wild birds, their eggs, nests and young are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

A suite of breeding bird surveys was undertaken, comprising six visits undertaken within the breeding bird season in 2023, 2025 and 2026.

Breeding bird surveys undertaken between April and July 2023 covered a larger survey area than 2025 and 2026 surveys, based upon the MHPGC Project Scoping Boundary. Surveys recorded a similar suite of species to the 2025 and 2026 surveys, typical of the locality. Further detail is provided within the report.

Breeding bird surveys were undertaken between April and July 2025. A total of 37 priority species were recorded within the Survey Area.. This included twelve species breeding or holding territory:

- Five species on the BoCC5 Red List: house martin, kittiwake, linnet, skylark, yellowhammer;
- Seven species on the BoCC5 Amber List: bullfinch, whitethroat, dunnock, fulmar, meadow pipit, song thrush, wren;
- Eight Species of Principal Importance: bullfinch, whitethroat, dunnock, house martin, linnet, skylark, song thrush, yellowhammer;
- Eleven species as part of the County Durham LBAP: bullfinch, dunnock, fulmar, house martin, kittiwake, linnet, meadow pipit, skylark, song thrush, whitethroat, yellowhammer;
- Two species noted as qualifying features for the Durham Coast SSSI: kittiwake and fulmar.

The most numerous breeding bird species recorded were fulmar, swallow, yellowhammer, house martin, kestrel, wren, chiffchaff, woodpigeon and kittiwake. The species recorded during the breeding bird survey are typical of local agricultural, woodland, urban and coastal/intertidal habitats and are widespread in the surrounding area.

Breeding bird surveys were undertaken in 2026 to provide data from two consecutive breeding seasons. Six visits were undertaken between March and July 2026. Data was available at time of writing for visits one to three only, in which a total of 23 Priority Species were recorded. Further detail is provided within the report.

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1.1 This report presents the breeding bird surveys undertaken for the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project (referred to hereafter as 'the MHPGC Project'). It forms **Volume 3, Annex 3.12: Interim Breeding Birds Surveys Technical Report, of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)** prepared for the MHPGC Project and supports **Volume 3, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology, of the PEIR**.
- 1.1.1.2 The breeding bird surveys were completed to identify species utilising the habitats within the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore during the breeding season (defined as late-March to Early-July) (Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group, 2025), with specific attention to any protected or target species (i.e., species associated with overlapping or nearby designated sites, within 10 kilometres (km)), breeding areas (such as nests including cliff colonies), or notable aggregations (such as summer roosting areas). This report presents the details of the breeding bird surveys, comprising six visits between April and June 2023, and six visits between April and July 2025. The results of the surveys are intended to inform the assessment of potential impacts and mitigation measures, if required.
- 1.1.1.3 Breeding Bird Surveys were also undertaken between March and July 2026 to collect baseline data across two consecutive breeding seasons.

1.2 Legislation

- 1.2.1.1 All wild birds, their nests, eggs and dependent young are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) (as amended; UK Government, 1981). Under the WCA, subject to limited statutory exceptions and licensing provisions, it is an offence to intentionally:
- kill, injure, or take any wild bird;
 - take or destroy an egg of any wild bird;
 - take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird (whilst that nest is being built, or in use);
 - take, damage or destroy the nest of certain wild birds that reuse their nests.
- 1.2.1.2 Certain species listed in Schedule 1 of the WCA are afforded additional protection from disturbance whilst nesting and during the period when dependent young are present. Activities that can affect wild birds, particularly during the breeding season include:
- trimming and cutting of trees, bushes, hedges and other vegetation;
 - renovating or demolishing a building;
 - creating disturbance through e.g. noise, lighting and vibration;
 - removal of nests or actions that prevent birds from nesting.
- 1.2.1.3 Developers must ensure that activities are undertaken so as to comply with the legal protection afforded to wild birds. Licensing may be sought in exceptional cases for activities that would otherwise be illegal (Natural England and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 2014).

1.3 Consultation and engagement

1.3.1 EIA Scoping

- 1.3.1.1 The MHPGC Project Scoping Report was issued to the PINS and MD-LOT in November 2024 (RPS, 2025). Following consultation with the appropriate statutory bodies, PINS (on behalf of the SoS) and MD-LOT provided a Scoping Opinion in March 2025 (PINS, 2025; MD-LOT, 2025).
- 1.3.1.2 **Section 3.3 of Volume 3, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology, of the PEIR** sets out the key comments raised during the scoping process specific to terrestrial ecology and terrestrial and intertidal ornithology.

1.3.2 Expert Working Groups

- 1.3.2.1 The scope, methodology and findings of the breeding bird surveys completed to date have been discussed, and where appropriate, agreed with stakeholders via the Onshore Ecology and Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology Expert Working Group (EWG) meetings. Further detail regarding consultation undertaken with respect to terrestrial ecology and terrestrial and intertidal ornithology can be found in **Volume 3, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology, of the PEIR.**

2 Methodology

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1.1 A combination of a desk study and field surveys were undertaken for the MHPGC Project to identify species utilising habitats within the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore during the breeding bird season, with specific attention to any protected or target species, breeding areas (including nests on cliffs and ground-nesting waders), or notable aggregations (such as summer roosting areas). Protected or target species are considered as those associated with overlapping or nearby designated sites (within 10km), which are notified for breeding or summer bird populations.
- 2.1.1.2 The objectives of the desk study and field surveys were to map the distribution of breeding birds within the breeding bird Survey Area, estimate the approximate size of breeding bird populations, and identify areas of relatively high ornithological sensitivity within the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore. This, in turn, enables an assessment of the potential effects of the MHPGC Project on breeding bird species and affords the identification of any constraints associated with breeding birds and/or mitigation requirements, if necessary.

2.2 Study Area

- 2.2.1.1 The study area is intended to cover the area within which an impact (direct or indirect) can be reasonably expected to occur and describe the geographical extent subject to desk based research.
- 2.2.1.2 The study area considered for breeding birds (hereafter referred to as the Breeding Bird Study Area) is the area subject to desk-based research for breeding birds and comprises the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore, with a 10km buffer applied, as shown in **Figure 2.1**. The size of the Breeding Bird Study Area was selected to assess the connectivity of potential key ornithological sites/species with the MHPGC Project.

2.3 Survey Area

- 2.3.1.1 The extent of the survey area is determined by the Desk Study, which evidences where relevant species are present within the Study Area and site-specific guidance which defines where direct and indirect impacts may occur.
- 2.3.1.2 The survey area considered for breeding birds (hereafter referred to as the Breeding Bird Survey Area) comprises the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore, with a 100m buffer applied. The geographic extent of the Breeding Bird Survey Area is shown in **Figure 2.2**. This size of the buffer for the Breeding Bird Survey Area is considered to represent the area within which potential impacts on ornithological receptors would be concentrated, including potential indirect effects from noise and visual disturbance.

2.4 Survey methodologies

2.4.1 Desk study

- 2.4.1.1 A desk study was undertaken to review existing ornithological data in relation to breeding birds. Specific attention was paid to any species associated with overlapping or nearby designated sites, as well as designated sites notified for breeding birds and other natural features of potential ornithological importance within the Breeding Bird Study Area.
- 2.4.1.2 The existing baseline data has been gathered using DEFRA Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) Map (Natural England, n.d.), Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC NE) and National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas (National Biodiversity Network Trust).
- 2.4.1.3 Supplementary information on the suitable habitats within the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore was obtained from aerial images available from Google™ Earth Pro.

2.4.2 Field survey

- 2.4.2.1 The 2025 and 2026 breeding bird surveys built on baseline breeding bird data obtained in 2023, providing updated information to inform the assessment of effects. Survey dates are included in **Table 2.1**.
- 2.4.2.2 Target species, hereby referred to as priority species, were defined as; species that are part of the British Birds of Conservation Concern 5 Red and Amber lists, Schedule 1 (species that receive additional legal protection in the UK against disturbance during the breeding season), Section 41 (species identified as being of principal importance (SPI) for biodiversity conservation in England), qualifying species for adjacent statutory sites and species listed on the Durham Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).
- 2.4.2.3 A territory mapping survey, based on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Common Bird Census (CBC) methodology (Marchant, 1983), was carried out between April and July 2025 and 2026. Experienced ornithologists surveyed the transects on foot, on six separate survey visits throughout the period April to July inclusive, with each survey visit extending over multiple mornings. Survey transects were defined to sample breeding bird populations within all of the terrestrial habitats throughout the Survey Area. The Breeding Bird Survey Area is dominated by agricultural habitats, primarily arable cropland and grazing pasture, with woodland, hedgerows, wetlands, scrub and coastal cliffs also present.
- 2.4.2.4 Six survey visits spread evenly between late March and early July are considered sufficient to determine the numbers and distribution of breeding territories of most terrestrial bird species, with a high level of accuracy, for the purpose of informing EIA (Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group, 2025).
- 2.4.2.5 2026 Survey Data in this report is presented up to and including May. Survey Data from June – July will be presented in the Environmental Statement (ES), supported by territory mapping, to provide data from two consecutive breeding seasons.
- 2.4.2.6 It should be noted that the 2023 breeding bird surveys were completed at an earlier stage of MHPGC Project refinement and therefore were completed for the MHPGC Project Scoping Boundary, rather than the refined Breeding Bird Survey Area, as set out in **Table 2.1**. Territory analysis was not undertaken in 2023 as a different approach of data analysis was completed, to identify possible, probable or confirmed breeding status.

Table 2.1: Breeding bird survey dates and survey coverage

Year	Date of completed survey visits	Coverage
2023	18.04.2023 to 21.04.2023 03.05.2023 to 04.05.2023 30.05.2023 to 01.06.2023 13.06.2023 to 14.06.2023 28.06.2023 to 29.06.2023 18.07.2023 to 26.07.2023	Breeding Bird Survey Area (based on MHPGC Project Scoping Boundary).
2025	02.04.2025 to 04.04.2025. 29.04.2025 to 02.05.2025. 19.05.2025 to 22.05.2025. 11.06.2025 to 13.06.2025. 25.06.2025 to 26.04.2025. 16.07.2025 to 18.07.2025.	Breeding Bird Survey Area.

Year	Date of completed survey visits	Coverage
2026	26.03.2026 to 27.03.2026 13.04.2026 to 15.04.2026 06.05.2026 to 08.05.2026 06.06.2026 to 08.06.2026* 24.06.2026 to 26.06.2026* 07.07.2026 to 09.07.2026*	Breeding Bird Survey Area.

- (*) As per Paragraph 2.4.2.5, June and July 2026 survey data will be presented in the ES.

2.4.2.7 Transects were walked at a pace that allowed surveyors to identify birds and bird songs/calls and behaviours, including transects along the coast to account for seabirds and waders potentially breeding within intertidal and cliff habitats, including those associated with nearby designated sites. Data were captured on handheld tablets using the FieldMaps app. Surveys commenced half an hour to an hour after sunrise and finished after noon where bird activity levels decreased.

2.4.3 Data Analysis

2.4.3.1 Many bird species are territorial during the breeding season, particularly passerines, with territories often marked by conspicuous song, display, and periodic disputes with neighbouring individuals. These registrations often fall into clusters, approximately coinciding with territories. Behaviours indicative of breeding recorded during the survey include territorial/alarm calls, song, aggressive encounters, occupied nests and carrying nest material, faecal sacs or food.

2.4.3.2 The data analyses followed procedures detailed in Bibby et al. (2000). Registrations of a species at broadly the same location, or in close proximity relative to the known/likely territory sizes of some species¹, on at least two survey dates, infer a breeding territory. Where a species has closely packed territories (e.g. wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*), simultaneously singing birds are mapped and territory boundaries are taken to be between such birds.

2.4.3.3 Professional judgement was used when demarcating territories for certain species. For instance, a registration on a single date by a species that is a relatively late arrival migrant, sings for short periods (e.g. yellow wagtail) or is inconspicuous (e.g. bullfinch and grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*)) was also attributed to a breeding territory. The presence, in suitable breeding habitat, of an adult bird of a resident species that sings primarily before or at dawn or in the evening (such as song thrush *Turdus philomelos* and robin *Erithacus rubecula*), was also treated as signifying a territory.

2.4.4 Limitations

2.4.4.1 The availability and quality of the data obtained during desk studies is reliant on third party responses and recorders. This may vary between regions and across different taxonomic groups. While noted here, this is not considered to be a limitation of the desk study and its ability to inform the baseline of the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore, as the desk study data was further supplemented by field surveys.

2.4.4.2 Private gardens, roads and carriageway embankments, railways and railway embankments and areas under construction were excluded from the Breeding Bird Survey Area. Where access to private land was not possible, a review of satellite mapping, together with surveys from adjacent land was utilised where possible.

2.4.4.3 A proportion of the breeding bird surveys extended beyond the period of optimal bird detectability, defined as the period from thirty minutes before sunrise until 11:00am. Consequently, there was potential for reduced detectability of bird species within areas surveyed after this time, which may have resulted in some records being missed. However, the cumulative survey effort across six survey

¹ Territory sizes of different species can vary. For example, territories of robin or wren may extend to 50m to 100m from a nest location, whereas those of green woodpecker and mistle thrush may extend to 300m from a nest (Bibby et al., 2000).

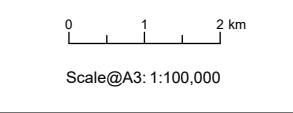
visits provided enough comprehensive and robust coverage of the survey area during the optimal detection period. This is therefore not considered a significant limitation and is not considered to affect the survey results or the conclusions presented within this report.

- 2.4.4.4 Territory analysis has not been undertaken for 2026 as at the time of writing survey data was only available for visits one to three (late March to May) and territory analysis would not provide an accurate assessment of the number of territories within the Survey Area. Territory analysis was not undertaken in 2023, rather an assessment of possible, probable or confirmed breeding was made.



Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 2.1: MHPGC PROJECT BREEDING BIRD STUDY AREA

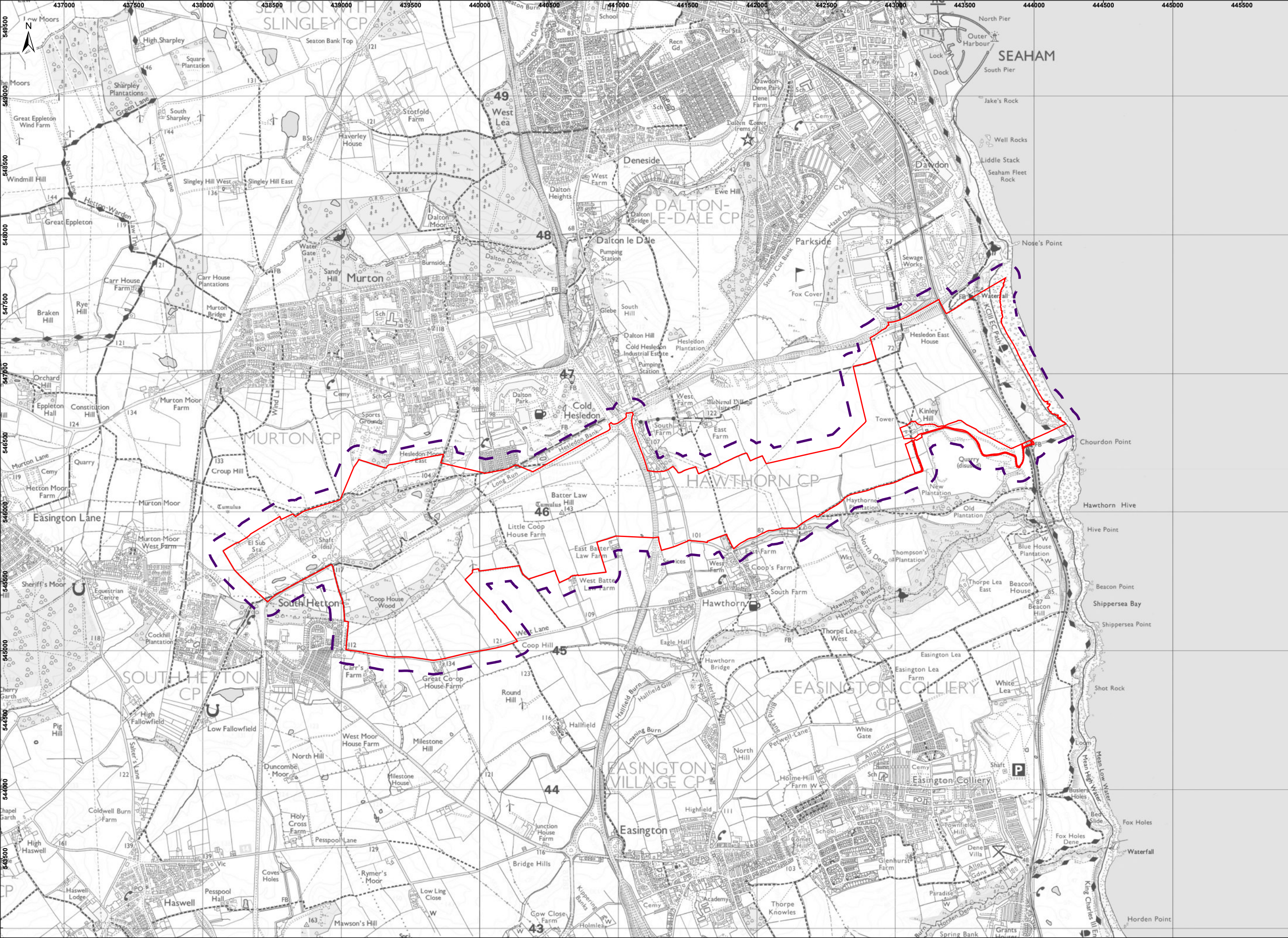


Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

Service Layer Credits:
GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open government License v3.0.
© Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000848283

Drawing Number:				
MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-100				
VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
01	10/08/2025	Initial Issue	EH	LT
-	-	-	-	-



- LEGEND**
- MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore
 - MHPGC Project Breeding Bird Survey Area - 100m Buffer

Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 2.2: MHPGC PROJECT BREEDING BIRD SURVEY AREA

0 0.5 km
Scale@A3: 1:25,000

Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

Service Layer Credits:
GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open government License v3.0.
© Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000848283

Drawing Number: MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-101				
VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
01	10/08/2026	Initial Issue	EH	LT
-	-	-	-	-

3 Results

3.1 Desk study

3.1.1 Statutory and non-statutory sites

3.1.1.1 There are seven sites with statutory designations for ornithological interest within the Breeding Bird Study Area, as detailed in **Table 3.1**. **Figure 3.1** shows the statutory designated sites of ornithological importance within the Breeding Bird Study Area.

Table 3.1: Statutory designated sites of ornithological interest within the Breeding Bird Study Area

Site Name	Relevant Qualifying Species/Features	Distance to the MHPGC Project
Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar Site	Breeding bird assemblage: SPA: - Little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>); - Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>). Ramsar: - Little tern; - Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>).	Approximately 1.7km north of the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore.
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA, SSSI and Ramsar	Breeding bird assemblage: SPA: - Little tern; - Avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>); - Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>). SSSI: - Avocet; - Common tern; - Little tern. Ramsar: - Avocet; - Common tern; - Little tern.	Approximately 9.5km south of the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore.
Durham Coast SSSI	Breeding little tern and coastal breeding populations of Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) and Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>).	Overlaps with the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore.
Durham Coast National Nature Reserve (NNR)	The area supports an important breeding population of little terns.	Approximately 4.5km south of the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore.

3.1.1.2 There are two non-statutory Sites designated for ornithological interest within the Breeding Bird Study Area, as detailed in **Table 3.2**. **Figure 3.1** shows the non-statutory designated sites of ornithological importance within the Breeding Bird Study Area.

Table 3.2: Non-statutory designated sites of ornithological interest within the Breeding Bird Study Area

Site Name	Relevant Qualifying Species/Features	Distance to the MHPGC Project
Elemore Vale Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	A variety of habitats, comprising wetlands, scrub, ungrazed and horse grazed grasslands. Breeding bird species include whitethroat (<i>Curruca communis</i>), willow warbler (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>), sedge warbler (<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>), linnet (<i>Linaria cannabina</i>) and yellowhammer (<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>). Grasshopper warbler (<i>Locustella naevia</i>) has also been recorded and kestrels (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>) regularly hunt over the area.	1.9km west of the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore.
Hetton Lyons LWS	Semi-improved neutral and acidic grasslands. Breeding wetland birds include; little grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>), coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>), moorhen (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>), mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) and reed bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>). Acid and neutral grassland are present and dry meadows have breeding populations of skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>) and meadow pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>).	950m northwest of the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore.

3.1.2 Local Records

3.1.2.1 To inform the Desk Study, records were requested from ERIC NE and were obtained on 28 October 2025. Records specific to the protected or target bird species, for which this report is focussed, are listed in **Table 3.3** and shown in **Figure 3.2**. To ensure a baseline informed by representative records, the ERIC NE data was sorted to only include bird records dating back to 2016, which includes a total of 1030 records. Only records within 2km of the updated MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore are included. It is important to note that these are records of occurrence and do not necessarily reflect breeding birds.

Table 3.3: Summary of priority bird records obtained from ERIC NE covering the period 2016 to 2025

Species	Occurrence (no. of records)	Years
Arctic skua (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>)	7	2017
Arctic tern	1	2017
Barn owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	1	2017
Black Guillemot (<i>Cephus grylle</i>)	1	2017
Black redstart (<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>)	14	2017
Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	26	2016-2018
Black-throated diver (<i>Gavia arctica</i>)	4	2017 & 2022
Brambling (<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>)	2	2017
Brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla</i>)	5	2017
Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	16	2017, 2020-2024
Guillemot	5	2016, 2017 & 2023
Common gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)	6	2016 & 2017

Species	Occurrence (no. of records)	Years
Common sandpiper (<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>)	1	2017
Common scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>)	14	2016 – 2018
Cormorant	23	2016 – 2021
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	4	2017, 2018, 2020 & 2021
Dunnock (<i>Prunella modularis</i>)	24	2017 – 2020, 2023 & 2024
Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	19	2016, 2017, 2020 & 2022
Fieldfare (<i>Turdus pilaris</i>)	1	2017
Fulmar	31	2016 – 2020, 2023
Gadwall (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>)	1	2017
Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>)	17	2016 – 2020
Glaucous gull (<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>)	1	2017
Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	4	2017
Goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)	2	2017
Grasshopper warbler	10	2017 – 2019, 2022
Great Black-backed gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)	18	2016-2017
Great Northern diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	3	2017
Great skua (<i>Stercorarius skua</i>)	6	2017
Greenfinch (<i>Chloris chloris</i>)	5	2017 & 2023
Grey partridge	11	2017, 2019, 2022 & 2023
Grey wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>)	6	2017 & 2023
Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	1	2017
Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	2	2017 & 2023
Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	42	2016 – 2020, 2023
House martin (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>)	4	2017, 2018 & 2020
House sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	15	2017-2023
Kestrel	60	2016 – 2025
Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)	4	2017 & 2023
Kittiwake	21	2017 - 2020
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	24	2017, 2020 – 2022

Species	Occurrence (no. of records)	Years
Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)	3	2017 – 2019
Linnet	29	2017 – 2022
Little gull (<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>)	2	2017
Long-tailed gull (<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>)	2	2017
Mallard	6	2017, 2020, 2021 & 2023
Manx shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>)	6	2017
Marsh tit (<i>Poecile palustris</i>)	8	2017
Mediterranean gull (<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>)	3	2017
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	2	2017
Mistle thrush (<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>)	11	2017, 2020 – 2024
Moorhen	2	2019 & 2020
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)	48	2016, 2017, 2019-2023
Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	4	2017
Pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)	11	2017, 2020-2024
Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	2	2017
Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>)	2	2017
Purple sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>)	6	2017
Quail (<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>)	1	2022
Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>)	4	2016, 2017 & 2023
Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)	1	2017
Red-necked grebe (<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>)	1	2017
Redpoll ² (<i>Acanthis flammea</i>)	5	2017, 2022 & 2023
Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)	22	2016, 2017, 2020, 2021
Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)	25	2016 & 2017
Redwing (<i>Turdus iliacus</i>)	4	2017 & 2023
Reed bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>)	32	2017 – 2025

² Common redpoll and lesser redpoll records have been combined into Redpoll as per British Ornithologists Union 2024 grouping of Arctic, Mealy and Lesser redpoll

Species	Occurrence (no. of records)	Years
Ring ouzel (<i>Turdus torquatus</i>)	1	2017
Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	10	2017 & 2023
Rook (<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>)	1	2017
Roseate tern	1	2017
Sandwich tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>)	2	2017
Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>)	3	2017
Shag (<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>)	6	2016 & 2017
Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)	2	2017
Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>)	1	2017
Skylark	36	2017 – 2025
Snipe (<i>Gallinago Gallinago</i>)	1	2020
Snow bunting (<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>)	1	2017
Song thrush	20	2017, 2019, 2020, 2022 & 2023
Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>)	9	2017, 2023 & 2024
Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	24	2017, 2020, 2022 – 2024
Stock dove (<i>Columba oenas</i>)	8	2017, 2019 & 2025
Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	12	2017, 2020-2025
Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>)	2	2020 & 2024
Tawny owl (<i>Strix aluco</i>)	1	2017
Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)	9	2017
Tree sparrow (<i>Passer montanus</i>)	9	2017 & 2022
Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	29	2017, 2020 – 2022
Twite (<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>)	4	2017, 2020 & 2022
Velvet scoter (<i>Melanitta fusca</i>)	3	2017
Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>)	2	2017 & 2023
Whinchat (<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>)	2	2017
Whitethroat	25	2017 – 2025
Whooper swan (<i>Curruca communis</i>)	3	2017 & 2023
Wigeon (<i>Mareca Penelope</i>)	6	2017
Willow tit (<i>Poecile montanus</i>)	31	2017, 2018, 2020 – 2024
Willow warbler (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>)	12	2017, 2019 – 2025

Species	Occurrence (no. of records)	Years
Wood sandpiper (<i>Tringa glareola</i>)	1	2017
Woodcock (<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>)	1	2017
Woodpigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	11	2017, 2020 & 2022
Yellow wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>)	4	2017, 2024 & 2025
Yellowhammer	19	2017, 2019 – 2024

3.2 Field survey

3.2.1.1 The Breeding Bird Survey Area is set out in **Figure 2.2**. The results of the breeding bird surveys are shown in **Figure 3.3** and **Table 3.4** provides details of the breeding birds recorded during the surveys.

3.2.2 2023 Breeding Bird Surveys

3.2.2.1 Thirty-nine species were noted during breeding bird surveys in 2023. No breeding evidence for Schedule 1 species were found. No breeding qualifying species associated with Northumbria Coast SPA or Ramsar, or Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA or Ramsar were recorded.

3.2.2.2 Two breeding seabirds, fulmar and kittiwake, were recorded within or adjacent to the Landfall. No wetland species were recorded as breeding.

- Seven species on the BoCC5 Red list: greenfinch, linnet, skylark, swallow, tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*), yellowhammer, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow;
- Eleven species on the BoCC5 Amber List: bullfinch, dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*), kestrel, meadow pipit, reed bunting, sedge warbler, song thrush, whitethroat, woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, wren and willow warbler;
Thirteen Species of Principal Importance (SPI): bullfinch, dunnoek, grasshopper warbler, greenfinch, house sparrow, linnet, reed bunting, skylark, song thrush, tree sparrow, willow warbler, yellowhammer;
- Twelve species as part of the LBAP: bullfinch, dunnoek, grasshopper warbler, greenfinch, house sparrow, linnet, reed bunting, skylark, song thrush, tree sparrow, willow warbler, yellowhammer
- Two species attributed as qualifying features for the Durham Coast SSSI: kittiwake and fulmar.

3.2.3 2025 Breeding Bird Surveys

3.2.3.1 A total of 37 Priority Species were recorded, with evidence of breeding by 12 species:

- Five species on the BoCC5 Red List: house martin (*Delichon urbica*), kittiwake, linnet, skylark, yellowhammer;
- Seven species on the BoCC5 Amber List: bullfinch, whitethroat, dunnoek, fulmar meadow pipit, song thrush, wren;
- Eight SPI: bullfinch, whitethroat, dunnoek, house martin, linnet, skylark, song thrush, yellowhammer;
- Ten species listed on the County Durham LBAP: bullfinch, dunnoek, fulmar, house martin, kittiwake, linnet, meadow pipit, skylark, song thrush, whitethroat, yellowhammer;
- Two species noted as qualifying features for the Durham Coast SSSI: kittiwake and fulmar.

3.2.3.2 The approximate central points of breeding territories of each priority species are mapped in **Figure 3.3**, with the actual territories extending beyond these points¹.

- 3.2.3.3 The species recorded during the breeding bird survey are considered typical of agricultural, woodland, urban and coastal/intertidal habitats and are widespread in the surrounding area. Significant aggregations of fulmar and kittiwake were present along the coast by Blast Beach where they breed on the cliffs. These species are qualifying features of the Durham Coast SSSI which overlaps with the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore (**Figure 3.1**).
- 3.2.3.4 The sea cliffs at the eastern end of the MHPGC Project PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore hold a high density of nesting fulmars, with 25 pairs recorded. Farmland and scrub areas in the west and east hold moderate densities of breeding farmland birds including skylark, meadow pipit, whitethroat and yellowhammer.

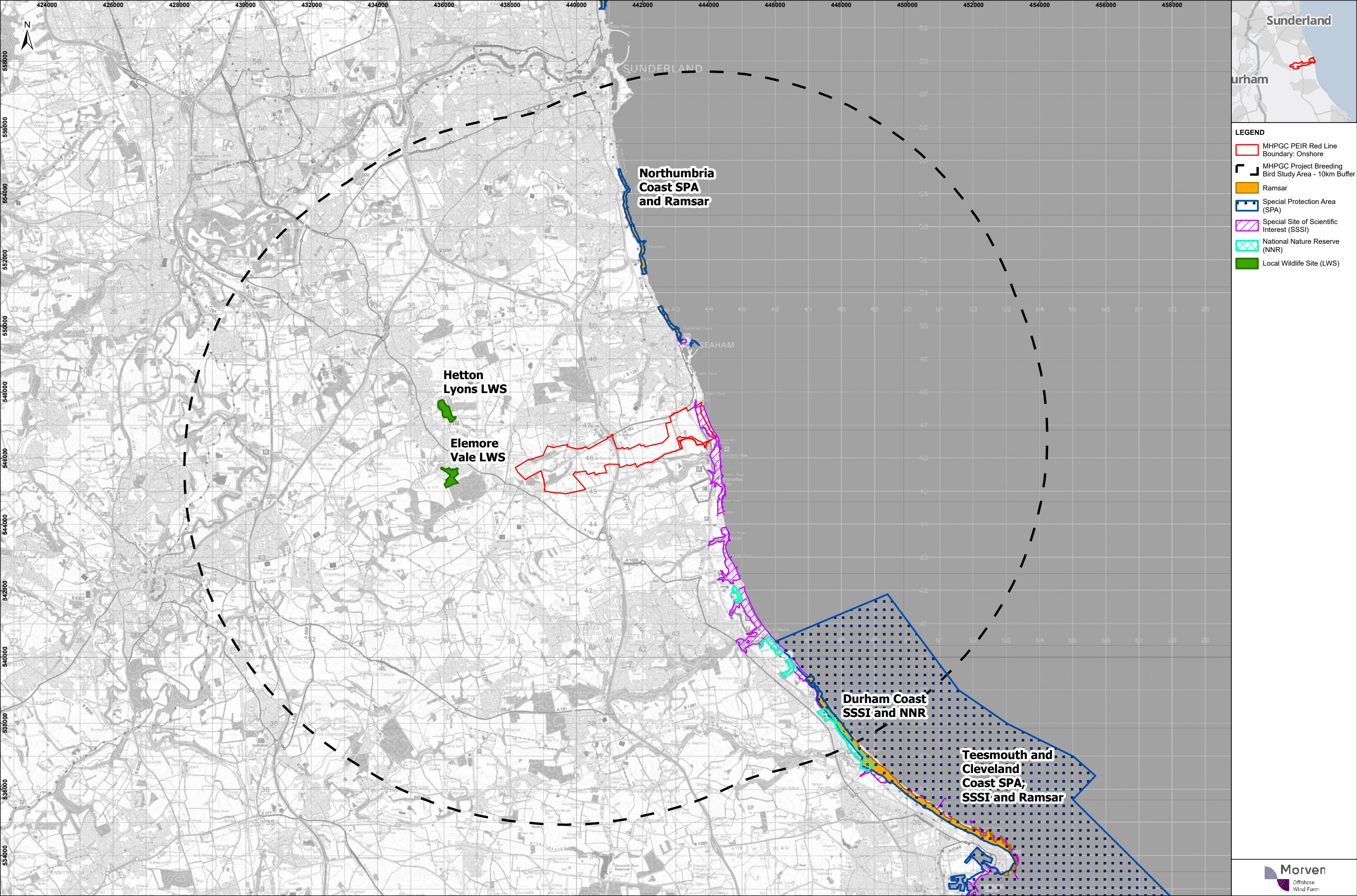
Table 3.4: Breeding bird territories within the Breeding Bird Survey Area (listed in vernacular name alphabetical order)

Species	Status				Number of Territories
	S41 NERC/SPI	LBAP	BoCC Red	BoCC Amber	
Bullfinch	X	X		X	1
Dunnock	X	X		X	1
Fulmar		X			25
House martin	X	X	X		1
Kittiwake		X	X		2
Linnet	X	X	X		2
Meadow pipit		X		X	6
Skylark	X	X	X		9
Song thrush	X	X		X	1
Whitethroat	X	X		X	6
Wren				X	9
Yellowhammer	X	X	X		6

3.2.4 2026 Breeding Bird Surveys

- 3.2.4.1 A total of 23 Priority Species were recorded during visits one to three of the 2026 Breeding Bird Surveys:
- Thirteen species on the BoCC5 Red List: grasshopper warbler, grey partridge, herring gull, house sparrow, house martin, lapwing, linnet, mistle thrush, tree sparrow, greenfinch, skylark, willow tit and yellowhammer,
 - Twenty species on the BoCC5 Red List: bullfinch, dunnock, fulmar, greylag goose, kestrel, lesser black-backed gull, mallard, meadow pipit, moorhen, reed bunting, sedge warbler, shoveler, sparrowhawk, song thrush, starling, stock dove, whitethroat, willow warbler, wood pigeon and wren.
 - Thirteen SPI: bullfinch, dunnock, grasshopper warbler, grey partridge, herring gull, house sparrow, lapwing, linnet, skylark, starling, tree sparrow, willow tit and yellowhammer.

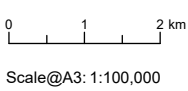
-
- Sixteen listed on the County Durham LBAP: bullfinch, dunnock, fulmar, house martin, house sparrow, lapwing, linnet, meadow pipit, skylark, reed bunting, starling, song thrush, whitethroat, willow tit, willow warbler and yellowhammer.
 - One species noted as qualifying features for the Durham Coast SSSI: fulmar.



- LEGEND**
- MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore
 - MHPGC Project Breeding Bird Study Area - 10km Buffer
 - Ramsar
 - Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - National Nature Reserve (NNR)
 - Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 3.1: MHPGC PROJECT BREEDING BIRD ORNITHOLOGICAL DESIGNATED SITES



Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

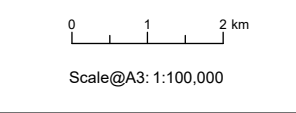
Service Layer Credits:
GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open government License v3.0.
© Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000848283

Drawing Number: MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-102				
VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
01	10/08/2025	Initial Issue	EH	LT
-	-	-	-	-



Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 3.2: MHPGC PROJECT BREEDING BIRD ERIC RECORDS

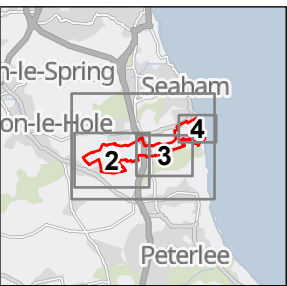
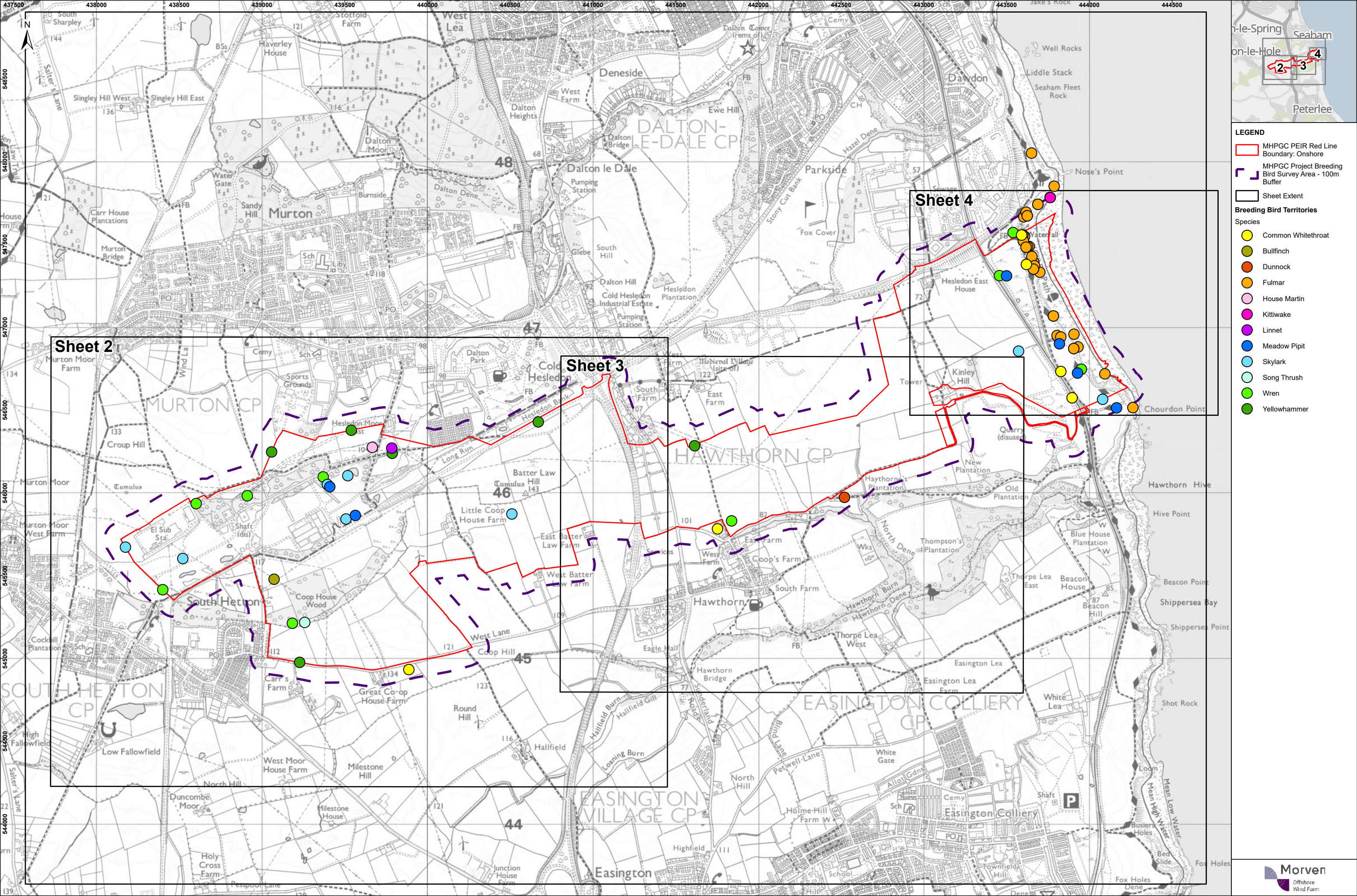


Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

Service Layer Credits:
GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open government License v3.0.
© Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000848283

Drawing Number: MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-103				
VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
01	10/08/2025	Initial Issue	EH	LT
-	-	-	-	-



- LEGEND**
- MHPGC PEIR Red Line Boundary: Onshore
 - MHPGC Project Breeding Bird Survey Area - 100m Buffer
 - Sheet Extent
 - Breeding Bird Territories**
 - Species**
 - Common Whitethroat
 - Bullfinch
 - Dunnock
 - Fulmar
 - House Martin
 - Kittiwake
 - Linnet
 - Meadow Pipit
 - Skylark
 - Song Thrush
 - Wren
 - Yellowhammer

Project Name:
MORVEN HAWTHORN PIT GRID
CONNECTION PROJECT

Drawing Title:
FIGURE 3.3: BIRD TERRITORIES
SHEET 1 OF 4

0 0.5 km
Scale@A3: 1:20,000

Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid

Data Sources:
BP, Ordnance Survey

Service Layer Credits:
GB Background: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2026. Contains data from OS Zoomstack
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open government License v3.0.
© Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000848283

Drawing Number:
MHPGC-WSP-PEIR-BIO-124

VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
01	13/08/2025	Initial Issue	EH	RE
-	-	-	-	-

4 Summary

- 4.1.1.1 This report presents the results of the breeding bird desk study and field surveys undertaken for the MHPGC Project to inform **Volume 3, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Terrestrial and Intertidal Ornithology, of the PEIR.**
- 4.1.1.2 The desk study identified historical records provided from ERIC NE including activity of priority species within the Breeding Bird Study Area. These records show presence of species associated with Durham Coast SSSI within the Breeding Bird Study Area.
- 4.1.1.3 A suite of breeding bird surveys was undertaken, comprising six visits undertaken within the breeding bird season in 2023, 2025 and 2026.
- 4.1.1.4 Breeding bird surveys undertaken between April and July 2023 covered a larger survey area than 2025 and 2026 surveys, based upon the MHPGC Project Scoping Boundary. Surveys recorded a similar suite of species to the 2025 and 2026 surveys, typical of the locality.
- 4.1.1.5 Breeding bird surveys were undertaken within the Breeding Bird Survey Area between April and July 2025. A total of 37 priority species were recorded, with evidence of breeding by 12 species:
- Eight SPI: bullfinch, whitethroat, dunnock, house martin, linnet, skylark, song thrush, yellowhammer.
 - Four species on the BoCC5 Red List: house martin, kittiwake, linnet, skylark, yellowhammer.
 - Nine species on the BoCC5 Amber List: bullfinch, whitethroat, dunnock, fulmar meadow pipit, song thrush, wren.
 - Ten species as part of the LBAP: bullfinch, dunnock, fulmar, house martin, kittiwake, linnet, meadow pipit, skylark, song thrush, whitethroat, yellowhammer;
 - Three qualifying species associated with Durham Coast SSSI, including kittiwake, fulmar (25 pairs) and cormorant were recorded within the breeding bird Survey Area. Cormorant were not considered to be breeding.
- 4.1.1.6 A total of 23 Priority Species were recorded during visits one to three of the 2026 Breeding Bird Surveys. Full results, including territory analysis, from the 2026 surveys will be included within the subsequent ES that will accompany the application for development consent.

5 References

Bibby, C.J., Burgess, N.D., Hill, D.A. and Mustoe, S.H. (2000) *Bird Census Techniques*. 2nd edn. London: Academic Press.

Marchant, J.H. (1983). *BTO Common Birds Census Instructions*. Tring: British Trust for Ornithology.

Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (2025) *Scoping Opinion: Morven Offshore Wind Farm, Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection*. Available at: https://marine.gov.scot/sites/default/files/morven_offshore_wind_farm_-_scop-0058_-_hawthorn_pit_grid_connection_-_scoping_opinion.pdf (Accessed: 18 August 2026).

Natural England (n.d.) *MAGIC Map Application*. Available at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> (Accessed: 18 August 2026).

Natural England and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2014). *Guidance: Wild birds: protection and licences*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wild-birds-protection-surveys-and-licences> (Accessed: 18 August 2026).

PINS (2025) *Scoping Opinion: Proposed Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project - EN0210005*. Available at: <https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN0210005-000005-Scoping%20Opinion%20-%20Morven%20Hawthorn%20Pit%20Grid%20Connection%20Project.pdf>. (Accessed 18 August 2026).

RPS (2025) *Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report*. Available at: <https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN0210005-000004-Morven%20Hawthorn%20Pit%20Grid%20Connection%20Project%20Scoping%20Report.pdf> (Accessed: 18 August 2026).

Stanbury, A.J., Eaton, M.A., Aebischer, N.J., Balmer, D.E., Brown, A.F., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D.G. 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, pp. 723-747.

Stanbury, A.J., Eaton, M.A., Aebischer, N.J., Balmer, D., Brown, A.F., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D.G. & Win, I. (2024). *The status of the UK's breeding seabirds: an addendum to 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 117: p. 471 – 478.

UK Government (1981). Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents> (Accessed: 18 August 2026).