



Galileo 03 Ltd.

Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park - Environmental Statement Volume III

Appendix 11.2: 2024 – 2025 Wintering Bird Survey Report

Project Reference: 663870

APRIL 2026

RSK

RSK GENERAL NOTES

Project No.: 663870

Title: Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park– Wintering Bird Survey Report

Client: Galileo 03 Ltd.

Date: April 2025
November 2025 (revision 1)
April 2026 (revision 2) – name change only

Office: Cardiff

Status: Final - DNS Application Submission

		Technical and Quality	
Author:	Nick Price	Reviewer:	Mark Lang
Date:	10/04/2025	Date:	10/04/2025
Rev 1	12/10/2025		12/10/2025

RSK Biocensus (RSK) has prepared this report for the sole use of the client, showing reasonable skill and care, for the intended purposes as stated in the agreement under which this work was completed. The report may not be relied upon by any other party without the express agreement of the client and RSK. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report.

Where any data supplied by the client or from other sources have been used, it has been assumed that the information is correct. No responsibility can be accepted by RSK Biocensus for inaccuracies in the data supplied by any other party. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are based on the assumption that all relevant information has been supplied by those bodies from whom it was requested.

No part of this report may be copied or duplicated without the express permission of RSK and the party for whom it was prepared.

Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK Biocensus.

Switchboard: +44 (0)330 223 1074 Company contact: Enquiries@biocensus.co.uk

CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Purpose of this Report.....	1
1.2	Ecological Context.....	1
1.3	Project Background	1
1.4	Structure of Report	2
2.0	LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE	3
2.1	Overview.....	3
2.2	Relevant Legislation	3
2.3	Policy and Guidance	4
3.0	METHODS	7
3.1	Desk Study	7
3.2	Field Surveys.....	7
3.3	Interpretation of Survey Results	8
3.4	Limitations	9
3.5	Quality Assurance	10
4.0	RESULTS	11
4.1	Desk Study	11
4.2	Field Surveys.....	11
5.0	EVALUATION	18
5.1	Overview.....	18
5.2	Conservation Status	18
5.3	Species Abundance	20
5.4	Species Diversity	21
5.5	Site Usage by Wintering Birds.....	21
6.0	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.....	23
	REFERENCES.....	24

TABLES

Table 1	Survey Dates and Weather Conditions.....	7
Table 2	Bird Assemblage Importance Criteria	9
Table 3	Designated Sites for Nature Conservation.....	11
Table 4	Summary of Species Recorded During the 2024 and 2025 Surveys.....	11
Table 5	Specially Protected and Notable Species Recorded During the 2024 and 2025 Surveys.....	18

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Boundary and Transect Locations

Figure 2: Wintering bird survey results – Annex 1 and Schedule 1 species

Figure 3: Wintering bird survey results –Red list species

Figure 4a: Wintering bird survey results – Amber list species

Figure 4b: Wintering bird survey results – Amber list species (continued)

ANNEXES

Annex A : Figures

Annex B: Field Survey Data

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of surveys for wintering birds undertaken at Mynydd Ty-talwyn in December 2024 and January 2025. These surveys were carried out to inform an assessment of the wintering bird assemblage in connection with Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park ('the Proposed Development') proposed on a 578 hectares (ha) located approximately 4 km to the north of Bridgend, centred on grid reference SS 86327 86041 and indicated in red on Figure 1 (the 'Site').
- 1.1.2 Additionally, surveys were completed to provide an update on Site species composition and abundance following assessments made from vantage point surveys completed from November 2021 to October 2023 by Avian Ecology as discussed in the **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume III, Appendix 11.1: 2021 – 2023 Ornithology Report**.
- 1.1.3 This report has been prepared by RSK Biocensus on behalf of Galileo 03 Ltd (part of Galileo Empower UK Ltd) (hereinafter referred to as 'Galileo' or the 'Applicant').

1.2 Ecological Context

- 1.2.1 The Site is located 4 km to the north of Bridgend and 8 km to the east of Port Talbot. The Site is dominated by grassland fields, many of these bordered by hedgerows or fences, with areas of wet, broadleaved, other coniferous and mixed woodland, gorse and bramble scrub and fen marsh and swamp. The Site is dissected by watercourses in several locations. Grassland management includes grazing by sheep and cows, with some areas mown for silage.
- 1.2.2 The Site is predominantly bordered by further areas of agricultural land to the north, south and east, with the western border of the Site adjacent to both forested and agricultural areas. The surrounding area is generally made up of agricultural fields bordered by hedgerows or fence lines, sparsely interrupted by forested areas with small residential areas immediately adjacent to the Site. One nationally designated site with ornithological qualifying features relevant to the non-breeding season was identified within 10 km of the Site, namely Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir SSSI.

1.3 Project Background

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation, and subsequent decommissioning, of up to six wind turbines, ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, one project substation, and ancillary infrastructure works.

1.4 Structure of Report

1.4.1 This report is structured as follows:

- **Section 2** presents legislation and guidance relevant to wintering birds;
- **Section 3** describes the methods adopted for the collection and interpretation of wintering bird data;
- **Section 4** presents the results of the desk study and field surveys;
- **Section 5** evaluates the results of the desk study and field surveys and assesses the importance of the wintering bird populations recorded;
- **Section 6** summarises the findings of the wintering bird survey report; and
- **Annex A-B** provide supplementary figures and field survey data.

2.0 LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 Relevant legislation and guidance relating to wintering birds is summarised below. This legislation and guidance has been used to inform the evaluation of the conservation status of the species recorded during the desk study and field surveys, when assessing the importance of the wintering bird populations present, and when evaluating the potential implications of these wintering bird populations for the Proposed Development.

2.2 Relevant Legislation

European Commission Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)

- 2.2.1 Certain UK bird species (including some wintering species) are protected at an international level under the European Commission (EC) Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 2009 (2009/147/EC). These species are afforded enhanced legal protection and European Union member states have a responsibility to maintain populations of these species. This Directive is transposed into English law through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)¹.
- 2.2.2 Species listed on Annex 1 of the Directive are those for which the UK Government is required to take special conservation measures (including the designation of land as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) to conserve populations of these species throughout their distributions. These sites form part of the Natura 2000 network of core sites that are protected for rare and threatened species.
- 2.2.3 Bird species listed on Annex 1 of the Directive are those which are deemed to be:
- In danger of extinction; and
 - Vulnerable to specific changes to their habitats;
- 2.2.4 Considered rare due to their small population sizes and/or restricted local distributions; or
- In need of particular attention due to the specific nature of their habitat requirements.

¹ As such, the requirements of the EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) still apply despite the UK no longer being a member state of the European Union.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

- 2.2.5 Wild birds are protected in the UK under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended). This protection was extended by the Countryside Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Under this legislation it is an offence to:
- Kill, injure or take any wild bird;
 - Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
 - Take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.
- 2.2.6 In addition, certain species are listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA and receive special protection under Sections 1(4) and 1(5), which confer penalties where the above-mentioned offences are committed, in addition to making it an offence to:
- Disturb any such bird whilst building its nest or whilst it is in or near a nest containing eggs or dependent young; or
 - Disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

- 2.2.7 The UK BAP (UK Biodiversity Steering Group, 1998a-f), is the Government's response to the Convention of Biological Diversity (1992). It describes the biological resources of the UK, details plans for their protection and lists action plans for habitats and species.
- 2.2.8 In Wales, this obligation originally derived from Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. However, this requirement for Wales has since been superseded by an almost identical requirement within the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- 2.2.9 In Wales there are nearly 500 animal and plant species listed within Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which are species of conservation concern or priority requiring national attention. At present there are 51 bird species within Section 7.

2.3 Policy and Guidance

Birds of Conservation Concern

- 2.3.1 The Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Red, Amber and Green lists categorise the UK's regularly occurring bird species according to their level of conservation concern (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021). Although these listings confer no legal protection, they are useful in guiding conservation action for individual species when birds may be affected by plans or projects.

Red List Species

2.3.2 These are species of high conservation concern, including:

- Species that are globally threatened according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria;
- Species with a historical breeding decline that have not shown a substantial recent recovery;
- Species that have shown a severe breeding decline 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; and
- Species whose non-breeding populations have declined over the last 25 years or longer term.

Amber List Species

2.3.3 These are species of medium conservation concern, including:

- Species of European Conservation Concern;
- Species whose populations have declined historically but which have made a substantial recent recovery;
- Species whose breeding populations have declined moderately 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 populations have declined moderately over the last 25 years or longer term; and
- Rare breeders or non-breeding rarity species with internationally important or localised populations.

Green List Species

2.3.4 Green list species fulfil none of the criteria detailed above. As such, they have stable or increasing populations and are not currently of conservation concern.

2.3.5 Non-native species such as Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) are not afforded Red, Amber or Green list status.

Neath Port Talbot Biodiversity Duty Plan

2.3.6 The Neath Port Talbot Biodiversity Duty Plan (2016) sets out a broad framework for how the Authority will meet its biodiversity duty under the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 but does not specifically highlight which habitats or species should be the focus of conservation action.

Bridgend Biodiversity Action Plan

- 2.3.7 The Bridgend Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2014 sets out habitats and species of particular conservation value within the county in order to raise awareness of biodiversity issues and provide a mechanism through which conservation targets for these habitats and species can be delivered within the county.
- 2.3.8 The Bridgend BAP identifies several species of specific conservation concern for the county:
- Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*);
 - Reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*);
 - Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*);
 - Whinchat (*Saxicola ruberta*); and
 - Spotted flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*).

3.0 METHODS

3.1 Desk Study

- 3.1.1 A search was made for statutory designated sites within 10 km of the Site that were designated for their ornithological interest, such as SPAs, Ramsar sites, and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
- 3.1.2 Baseline data including records for avian species was requested from the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) in May 2023, the results of which are summarised in **ES Volume III, Appendix 10.1: Ecological Baseline**.

3.2 Field Surveys

- 3.2.1 The field surveys for wintering birds were undertaken in December 2024 and January 2025 inclusive and comprised two survey visits, during which suitably experienced RSK Biocensus ornithologists walked a pre-determined transect route throughout the Site (see Figure 1, recording all bird species encountered (either visually or through their vocalisations) onto GIS Field Maps software using standard BTO species codes and behaviour notation (Marchant, 1983). The behaviours birds were exhibiting during the visit were recorded, such as feeding (including foraging behaviour), singing, calling, perching, roosting and loafing (displaying relaxed behaviour not related to foraging, breeding, or predator evasion).
- 3.2.2 The transects routes were designed to cover Site areas planned to be affected by either the construction or operational phase of the development. The transect route was interspersed with stops, during which the ornithologist scanned for birds using optical equipment. The direction in which the transect route was walked by the ornithologist was alternated between survey visits.
- 3.2.3 Surveys were undertaken in suitable weather conditions (in all but one case and only for parts of the survey), avoiding extreme temperatures, heavy rain and snow during which bird activity may be atypical and/or surveying may be impractical. Limitations in relation to the completion of the surveys are discussed in **Section 3.4**. The dates, timings, and weather conditions for the two survey visits are indicated in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Survey Dates and Weather Conditions

Survey visit	Date	Transect Number	Timing	Temperature (°C)	Weather conditions
1	17/12/2024	1	14:00 - 15:00	9-10	Cloud 6/8, visibility excellent (>3 km), gentle breeze, dry
1	17/12/2024	2	10:15 - 15:45	7-10	Cloud 7/8, visibility excellent (>3 km), gentle breeze, dry

Survey visit	Date	Transect Number	Timing	Temperature (°C)	Weather conditions
1	17/12/2023	3	11:00 – 14:00	8-10	Cloud 7/8, visibility excellent (>3 km), gentle breeze, dry
1	16/12/2024	5	09:15 – 14:00	9-10	Cloud 8/8, visibility excellent (>3 km), light air, light drizzle
1	16/12/2024	6	12:15 – 15:00	10	Cloud 8/8, visibility excellent (>3 km), light air, moderate rain
2	13/01/2025	1	10:00 – 12:05	5-6	Cloud 7/8, visibility good (1.5-3 km), light air, dry
2	14/01/2025	2	10:35 – 15:00	7-9	Cloud 8/8, visibility poor (<0.5 km), calm, light drizzle
2	14/01/2025	3	11:00 - 14:15	7-9	Cloud 8/8, visibility poor (<0.5 km), light air, light drizzle
2	13/01/2025	5	13:00 – 16:00	7-8	Cloud 6/8, visibility good (1.5-3 km), light air, dry
2	13/01/2025	6	11:40 – 15:15	6-8	Cloud 7/8, visibility excellent (>3 km), light breeze, dry

3.3 Interpretation of Survey Results

Conservation Status

3.3.1 The assessment of the importance of the wintering bird populations recorded took into consideration the conservation statuses of the species recorded. Species afforded special statutory protection or included on lists of species of conservation interest were evaluated. These included:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 species;
- EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Annex 1 species;
- Section 7 Environment (Wales) Act 2016 species;
- BoCC Red and Amber list species; and
- Priority species cited within the Bridgend BAP.

Species Diversity

3.3.2 The importance of the wintering bird assemblage recorded within the Site was assessed according to its level of species diversity, in reference to the criteria described by Fuller (1980), as indicated in **Table 2**.

- 3.3.3 It should be recognised that many species have undergone widespread decline since these criteria were devised. As such, the qualifying number of species for a given importance category proposed by Fuller (1980) is now considered to be relatively high. This disparity is taken into account within the adapted importance criteria indicated in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Bird Assemblage Importance Criteria

Bird Assemblage Importance Category	Number of Bird Species Recorded	
	Fuller (1980) Criteria	Adapted Criteria
National	More than 85	More than 85
Regional	70-84	70-84
County	50-69	50-69
District	-	25-49
Local	25-49	Fewer than 25

3.4 Limitations

- 3.4.1 During surveys on visit two on the 14 January 2025, fog and light persistent rain were present throughout parts of the surveys, this resulted in poor visibility for surveyors during this time and reduced bird activity. Given the wealth of ornithology data gathered from the Vantage Point and other species-specific surveys this is not considered to have materially limited the survey work undertaken.
- 3.4.2 Two survey visits were undertaken across the Site during the non-breeding season. Considering the data collected during the non-breeding season for Vantage Point (VP) surveys in 2022 and 2023, as discussed in **ES Volume III, Appendix 11.1: 2021 - 2023 Ornithology Report**, VP surveys provided a high level of coverage across the entire Site during the entire survey duration. Any observations of notable aggregations (i.e., waders/raptors, etc.) would be recorded during these surveys and have been considered in the assessment of the ornithological receptors identified. Transect survey coverage is not considered to be a significant limitation to the overall assessment of the non-breeding ornithological baseline present within the Site. Available survey data from VP surveys is considered sufficient for informing the non-breeding bird assemblage recorded within the Site.
- 3.4.3 The two transect visits were unable to be completed fully during the non-breeding season to the Site both in December 2024 and January 2025 due to the presence of livestock across the survey area. Recordings of bird species present were still made where possible with the aid of binoculars and as discussed below with alternate transect routes used where this occurred. Again, due to the wealth of ornithology data

gathered from the VP and other species-specific surveys across the entire survey duration for the Site, this is not considered to have materially limited the survey work undertaken and overall assessment of the ornithology assemblage present within the Site.

- 3.4.4 Alternative transect routes were used on occasion when access was blocked, these are shown in Figure 1. Adequate coverage of the Site was achieved on all occasions, and this is not considered a material constraint.

3.5 Quality Assurance

- 3.5.1 The surveys and reporting were undertaken by RSK Biocensus ornithologists who are experienced in conducting ornithology work in relevant habitats.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Desk Study

- 4.1.1 A review of 'MAGIC' and NRW websites identified that the Site does not form part of any statutory designated site for nature conservation with qualifying ornithological features.
- 4.1.2 **Table 3** summarises statutory designated sites with ornithological qualifying features. Distances specified within **Table 3** are taken from the Site Boundary to the designation boundary at its nearest point.

Table 3: Designated Sites with Ornithological Qualifying Features

Designated Site	Approximate Distance and Direction from Site	Ornithological Qualifying Features
Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir SSSI	4.6 km southwest	Reservoir supporting wintering wildfowl and passage migrants.

4.2 Field Surveys

- 4.2.1 A total of 53 bird species were recorded during the field surveys of the Site in December 2024 and January 2025. The peak counts of these species are summarised in **Table 4**, with descriptions of their behaviour and distribution within and near the Site. Full wintering bird survey data from December 2024 and January 2025 inclusive are provided in **Annex B**.

Table 4: Summary of Species Recorded During the 2024 and 2025 Surveys

Common Name	Scientific Name	Peak Count	Behaviour and Distribution
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	51	Calling, feeding and alarm calling throughout Site on both visits.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	29	Calling throughout Site during both visits.
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	3	Individuals calling and flying over during both visits.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	12	Individuals calling and perching during both visits.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Peak Count	Behaviour and Distribution
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	44	Individuals and pairs recorded calling throughout Site.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	19	Small flocks calling and alarm calling throughout Site on both visits.
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	9	Calling in conifer woodland to west of Site during both visits.
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	1	An individual flew south-west over the Site during visit 1.
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	5	Perching in conifer woodland to west of Site during both visits.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	21	Calling and alarm calling throughout Site during both visits.
Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	7	Flocks up to 7 flying over a farmyard during both visits to south-eastern corner of Site.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	126	Flocks feeding throughout Site during both visits. Formed mixed feeding flocks with other thrush species and starlings.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	8	Calling and alarm calling, concentrated to north-western corner of Site.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	42	Flocks of up to 11 and individuals calling and feeding across Site during both visits.
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1	Unconfirmed sighting flying south-west in the centre of the Site.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	3	Individuals calling from woodland on Site during both visits.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Peak Count	Behaviour and Distribution
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1	Calling and singing across Site during both visits.
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	1	Individual calling near transect 4 on visit 2 and an individual alarm calling to west of Site in coniferous woodland during visit 1.
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	1	One individual perching in north of Site during visit 1.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	An individual flying over a field north-east in the centre of Site.
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	3	Two individuals recorded calling and taking off south-east and one individual flying over north in the south-eastern corner of the Site during visit 1.
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	178	Large flock of 50 herring gulls calling in centre of Sites. Flying across Site during both visits. Formed flocks with lesser black-backed gulls.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1	Calling in hedgerow near farms building to west of Site.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	424	Flock of 80 jackdaw flying west over woodland in east of Site. A flock of 300 jackdaw were also feeding over two fields in the east of Site.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Peak Count	Behaviour and Distribution
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	8	Predominantly calling around conifer woodland to west of Site.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	Individual flew north from the centre of the Site during visit 1.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	4	Four individuals feeding in field to south of Site during visit 1.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	72	Flock of 42 feeding in centre of Site during visit 1. Flock of 24 circling around field to centre of Site during visit 1. Formed flock with herring gulls.
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	2	Individual calling in small area of woodland to south of Site during visit 1. Individual flying over south-east during visit 1.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	3	Three individuals flying over and calling, travelling south-east over field to north of Site.
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	18	Flocks feeding and calling around hedgerows and woodland on Site during both visits.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	9	Individuals and pairs calling, feeding and flying over, concentrated to south-eastern corner of Site during both visits.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Peak Count	Behaviour and Distribution
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	40	Individuals and flocks of up to 15 calling and feeding across Site during both visits.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	14	Individuals and pairs singing and feeding across Site during both visits. Flushed on two occasions into coniferous woodland to north of Site.
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	1	Individual calling in woodland bordering river to north-east of Site during visit 1. Individual also singing in woodland to north of Site during visit 2.
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	Individual flying over field in centre of Site south-east.
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	101	Individuals and flocks of up to 30 feeding, perching and flying throughout Site during both visits.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	11	Individuals and pairs calling and flying across fields throughout Site during both visits.
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	21	Individuals calling, feeding and perching throughout Site predominantly to the eastern side with largest number of records during first visit.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Peak Count	Behaviour and Distribution
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	213	Individuals and flocks feeding and calling across Site during both visits, formed parts of flocks with other thrushes and starlings.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1	Individual was flushed from a hedgerow to the south-west of Site during visit 1.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	46	Individuals and pairs singing, calling, feeding and perching throughout woodland and hedgerows on Site during both surveys.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	35	Flocks of up to 25 calling, feeding and perching in fields and woodland to the south and south-east of Site.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	16	Individuals and flocks feeding, calling and flying over fields throughout Site during both visits.
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	4	Individuals and groups of up to three were recorded alarm calling, loafing and being flushed, especially in wetter fields to the centre of the Site.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	29	Individuals and pairs across hedgerows and woodland on Site calling and feeding during both visits. Some mixing with flocks of other thrushes when foraging.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Peak Count	Behaviour and Distribution
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	One individual recorded taking off from a tree located to the centre of the Site during visit 2.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1247	Large flock of approximately 700 feeding and roosting in northern fields and woodland on Site during visit 2. Other smaller flocks and individuals calling, feeding and flying throughout Site during both visits.
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	28	Flock of 25 perching in hedgerow on southern border of Site during visit 1. Pair taking off from woodland to east of Site during visit 2.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	3	Individual male perching in gorse to north of Site during first visit. Male individual perching on fence to north-west of Site during first visit. Male individual feeding in field to north of Site during visit 1.
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	2	Individuals calling in woodlands and lines of trees of Site.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	30	Individuals and flocks of up to 15 flying and feeding throughout Site during both visits.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	33	Individuals and flocks calling throughout Site in woodlands and hedgerows.

5.0 EVALUATION

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 The assessment of the importance of the wintering bird populations recorded within the Site during the field surveys undertaken December 2024 and January 2025 inclusive is provided below, taking into consideration:

- The conservation statuses of the species recorded (i.e., their inclusion on the legislation and guidance described in **Section 2** of this report);
- The sizes of the populations of the species recorded (i.e., species abundance);
- The overall diversity of the wintering bird assemblage (i.e., species diversity); and
- The spatial patterns of wintering bird usage of the Site, including any areas of particular importance to wintering bird populations.

5.2 Conservation Status

5.2.1 Of the 53 species recorded during the 2024/25 field surveys for wintering birds, 31 species are included on the legislation and guidance described in **Section 2** of this report (as indicated in **Table 5** below).

Table 5: Specially Protected and Notable Species Recorded During the 2024 and 2025 Surveys

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annex 1	Schedule 1	Section 7	BoCC Red	BoCC Amber	Bridgend BAP
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	-	-	✓	-	✓	-
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	-	✓	-	-	-	-
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	-	-	-	✓	-	-
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	-	-	✓	-	✓	-
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	-	✓	-	✓	-	-
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	-	✓	-	-	-	-
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	-	-	-	✓	-	-
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	-	-	✓	✓	-	-
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	-	-	✓	✓	-	-

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annex 1	Schedule 1	Section 7	BoCC Red	BoCC Amber	Bridgend BAP
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	-	-	✓	-	✓	-
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	-	-	✓	✓	-	-
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	-	-	✓	✓	-	-
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	-	-	-	✓	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	-	✓	-	-	✓	-
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	-	-	✓	-	✓	-
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	-	-	✓	✓	-	-
Stock Dove	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-

Schedule 1: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 species

Annex 1: EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Annex 1 species

S7: Section 7 Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annex 1	Schedule 1	Section 7	BoCC Red	BoCC Amber	Bridgend BAP
Red: BoCC Red list species							
Amber: BoCC Amber list species							
Bridgend BAP: species cited within the Bridgend Biodiversity Action Plan 2014							

5.2.2 In summary, the 53 species recorded included the following:

- Two EC Birds Directive Annex 1 species - red kite and peregrine falcon;
- Six WCA Schedule 1 species – crossbill, goshawk, red kite, peregrine falcon, redwing, and fieldfare²;
- Twelve Section 7 Species of Principal Importance – bullfinch, dunnock, house sparrow, kestrel, lesser redpoll, lapwing, linnet, herring gull, skylark, starling, song thrush, and reed bunting;
- Ten BoCC Red list species – common gull, greenfinch, lesser redpoll, lapwing, herring gull, skylark, starling, fieldfare, linnet, and mistle thrush;
- Sixteen BoCC Amber list species – bullfinch, dunnock, wood pigeon, lesser black-backed gull, snipe, meadow pipit, kestrel, rook, wren, redwing, grey wagtail, pied wagtail, stock dove, reed bunting, sparrowhawk and song thrush; and
- Three species within the Bridgend BAP - lapwing, skylark and reed bunting.

5.3 Species Abundance

5.3.1 Based on the peak counts recorded for the species encountered during the 2024/25 field surveys, no species are assessed as being present within the Site in numbers of national importance.

5.3.2 In reference to the surveys completed on Site, the East Glamorgan Bird Report No. 61 – 2022 (East Glamorgan Bird Report 2022) has been used to provide local context to numbers of individuals of each species identified and together with professional judgement, the populations of the following species recorded are considered to be of County level importance:

- **Red kite** (peak count of 21): widespread in East Glamorganshire in appropriate habitat, more common in northern range. Peak counts of seven and six (located at Mynydd Ty-talwyn) within East Glamorgan in 2021 (East Glamorgan Bird Report 2022).

5.3.3 The populations of the following species recorded are considered to be of up to County level importance:

² Redwing and fieldfare are common winter visitors and Schedule 1 protection refers to a small breeding population in Scotland.

- **Pied wagtail** (peak count of 101): Widespread throughout UK. Common resident in south Wales. Peak counts in East Glamorgan of 51 in Sully on 11 October 2021 and 50+ at Porthcawl 10th November 2021;
- **Starling** (peak count of 1247): Widespread throughout UK. Common but declining resident species in East Glamorgan. Peak count recorded was 900 on 6 November 2022 at Rhymney Great Wharf;
- **Herring gull** (peak count of 178): Widespread throughout UK especially coastal areas. Common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant in East Glamorgan. Peak count in winter months (November – February) of 680 in December 2021; and
- **Lesser black-backed gull** (Peak count of 72): Widespread throughout UK especially coastal areas. Common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant in East Glamorgan. Peak count in winter months (November – February) of 300 in February 2022.

5.3.4 Considering their conservation statuses and the numbers recorded during the field surveys, populations of the other bird species recorded on-site in winter 2024/25 are considered to be of up to local level importance.

5.4 Species Diversity

5.4.1 A total of 53 species were recorded during the field surveys. In line with the guidance described in **Table 2**, the wintering bird assemblage is therefore considered to be up to County importance.

5.5 Site Usage by Wintering Birds

5.5.1 Extensive areas of sheep grazed grassland and cropland on Site provide foraging habitat for a range of species. Large mixed and single species flocks of fieldfare, redwing and starling were observed foraging across a number of the fields throughout Site. These flocks were more frequent in better drained fields to the north and south of the Site. Fields to the south-eastern corner of Site also attracted larger numbers of foraging gulls including: common gull, lesser black-backed gull and herring gull. Several fields in this area had been more recently utilised as cropland and, as such, may have provided better foraging resources for these species.

5.5.2 A large flock of approximately 700 starling were recorded forging across fields to the north of the Site. A number of this flock were also then seen roosting in a small area of woodland adjacent to the fields being foraged in. A flock this size was not seen on the previous visit, but several large flocks were seen elsewhere on Site including one of 150 the previous day in fields 650 m away, meaning large numbers of starling may be regularly using the Site for both foraging and roosting.

- 5.5.3 Ditches and streams running adjacent to fields within the Site were of particular value to wetland bird species including snipe, reed bunting, grey wagtail and grey heron. Other non-wetland specialists including wren and blackbird were also recorded in areas of scrub that bordered watercourses.
- 5.5.4 The coniferous woodland both on and bordering Site were used by a number of coniferous woodland specialist species including coal tits and crossbills, these being predominantly identified in the Craig yr Aber woodlands bordering the Site and the small patch of coniferous woodland to the north of the Site.
- 5.5.5 Raptors such as sparrowhawk and goshawk that associate with woodland were also observed. The on-site woodland rides, open fields bordering woodland and the woodland itself are likely utilized by these species for hunting and roosting. Raptor species such as red kite and buzzard were seen circling and hunting over the Site. A single kestrel and peregrine were seen flying over but not interacting with the Site (i.e., did not land or take off from within the Site and did not attempt to forage).
- 5.5.6 Hedgerows and scrub on-site were used by a number of passerine species including dunnock, long-tailed tit, linnet, lesser redpoll, robin, wren and blackbird. Flocks of up to 30 pied wagtails were also seen feeding across fields on-site.
- 5.5.7 A study of Ordnance Survey maps and aerial imagery found that the surrounding landscape consisted of a similar character and would provide similar habitat to that present on-site including livestock grazed fields, arable land, hedgerows and coniferous and broadleaved woodland.

6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The field surveys undertaken in December to January 2025 inclusive to inform the Proposed Development recorded a total of 53 bird species. These included two EC Birds Directive Annex 1 species, six WCA Schedule 1 species, twelve Section 7 Species of Principal Importance, ten BoCC Red list species, sixteen BoCC Amber list species and three species within the Bridgend BAP.
- 6.1.2 Based on the diversity of the wintering bird assemblage recorded, the wintering bird assemblage within and adjacent to the Site is considered to be of County level importance. Populations of red kite on the Site are considered to be of County level importance, whilst wintering populations of starling, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull and pied wagtail are considered to be of up to County level importance. All other species are considered to be no more than Local importance.
- 6.1.3 The Proposed Development has the potential to affect wintering birds within and adjacent to the Site and the impacts and any mitigation requirement will be outlined in **ES Volume II, Chapter 11: Ornithology**.

REFERENCES

- Avian Ecology (2023) Mynydd-Ty-talwyn Energy Park Galileo Green Energy Wales Ltd. Technical Appendix: Ornithology
- Bird Survey and Assessment Steering Group. (2022) *Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts*, v.0.1.6. [Available at: [Bird Survey Guidelines | for ecological impact assessment](#) – accessed February 2025].
- Bridgend County Borough Council (2014) Local Biodiversity Action Plan. [Available at: [Nature Recovery Plan - Bridgend CBC](#) – accessed February 2025]
- CIEEM. (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1 – Updated September 2019. [Available at: [ECIA-Guidelines-Sept-2019.pdf \(cieem.net\)](#) – accessed February 2025].
- CIEEM. (2019) *Advice Note on the lifespan of ecological surveys and reports*. [Available at: [Advice-Note.pdf \(cieem.net\)](#) – accessed February 2025]
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). London: HMSO.
- Council of the European Communities. (2009) *Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (codified version)*. Official Journal of the European Communities, 20 (2009), 7-25.
- Fuller, R. J. (1980) *A method for assessing the ornithological interest of sites for conservation*. Biological Conservation, 17(3), 229-239.
- Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D. W., & Evans, J. (1998) *Bird Monitoring Methods: a manual of techniques for key UK species*. RSPB.
- Glamorgan Bird Club (2022) East Glamorgan Bird Report No. 61 [Available at: [East Glamorgan Bird Report – Glamorgan Bird Club](#) – accessed February 2025]
- Marchant, J.H. (1983) *BTO Common Birds Census instructions*. BTO, Tring.
- National Planning Policy Framework. (2019) London: HMSO.
- RSPB. (2010) *Wild birds and the law, England, and Wales*. RSPB.
- 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. (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 at: <https://bou.org.uk/blog-birds-of-conservation-concern-5/> – accessed March 2024].
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). London: HMSO.

ANNEX A: FIGURES

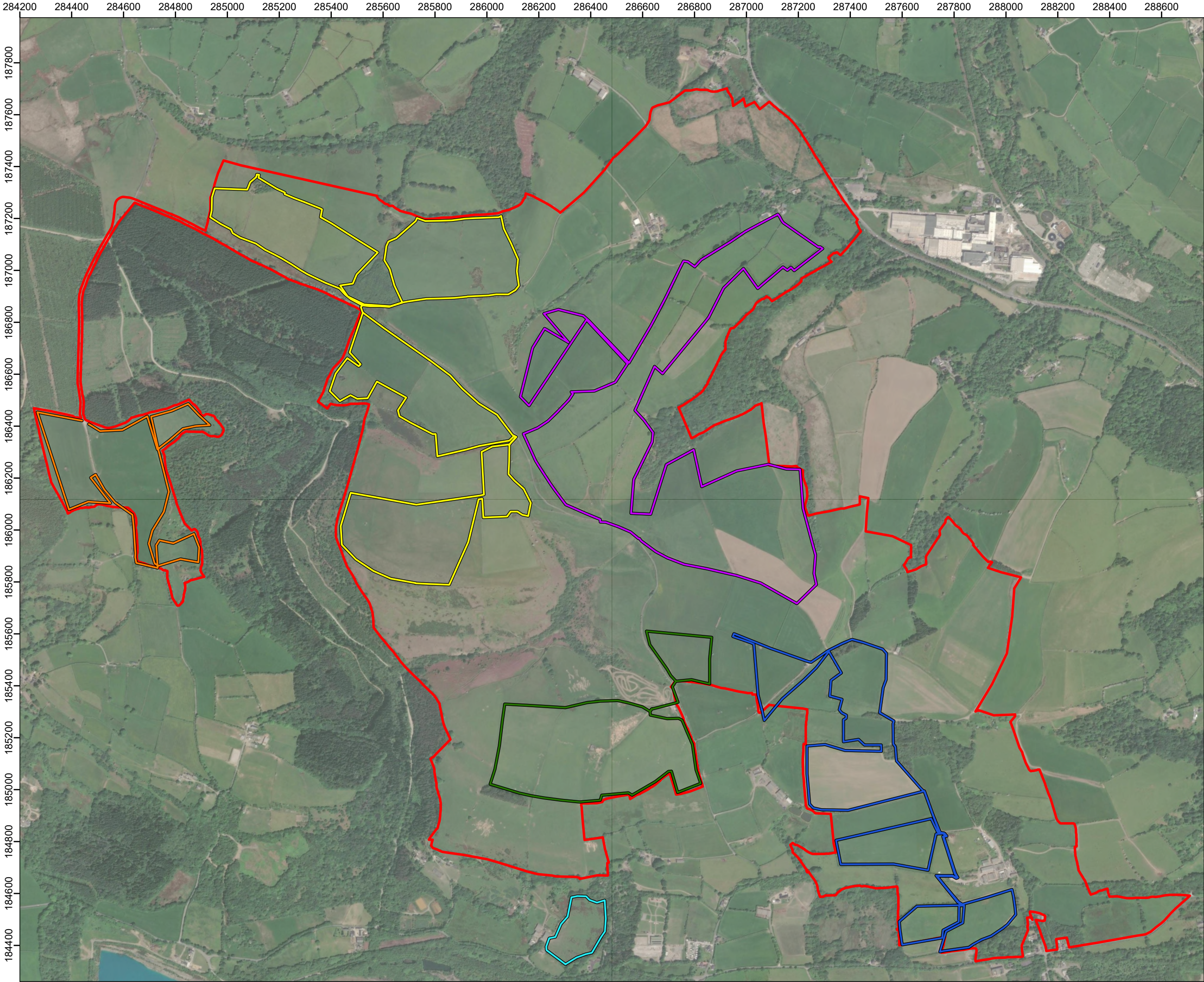
Figure 1: Site Boundary and Transect Locations

Figure 2: Wintering bird survey results – Annex 1 and Schedule 1 species

Figure 3: Wintering bird survey results –Red list species

Figure 4a: Wintering bird survey results – Amber list species

Figure 4b: Wintering bird survey results – Amber list species (continued)



- Legend:**
- Site boundary
 - Transect Route**
 - Transect 1
 - Transect 2
 - Transect 2 alternate route
 - Transect 3
 - Transect 4
 - Transect 5
 - Transect 5 alternate route
 - Transect 6



00	20/11/2025	2485114	TG	SP	NP
Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park



TITLE: Figure 1:
Site Boundary and Transect Locations

0150300450

Metres

SCALE: 1:13,500 @ A3

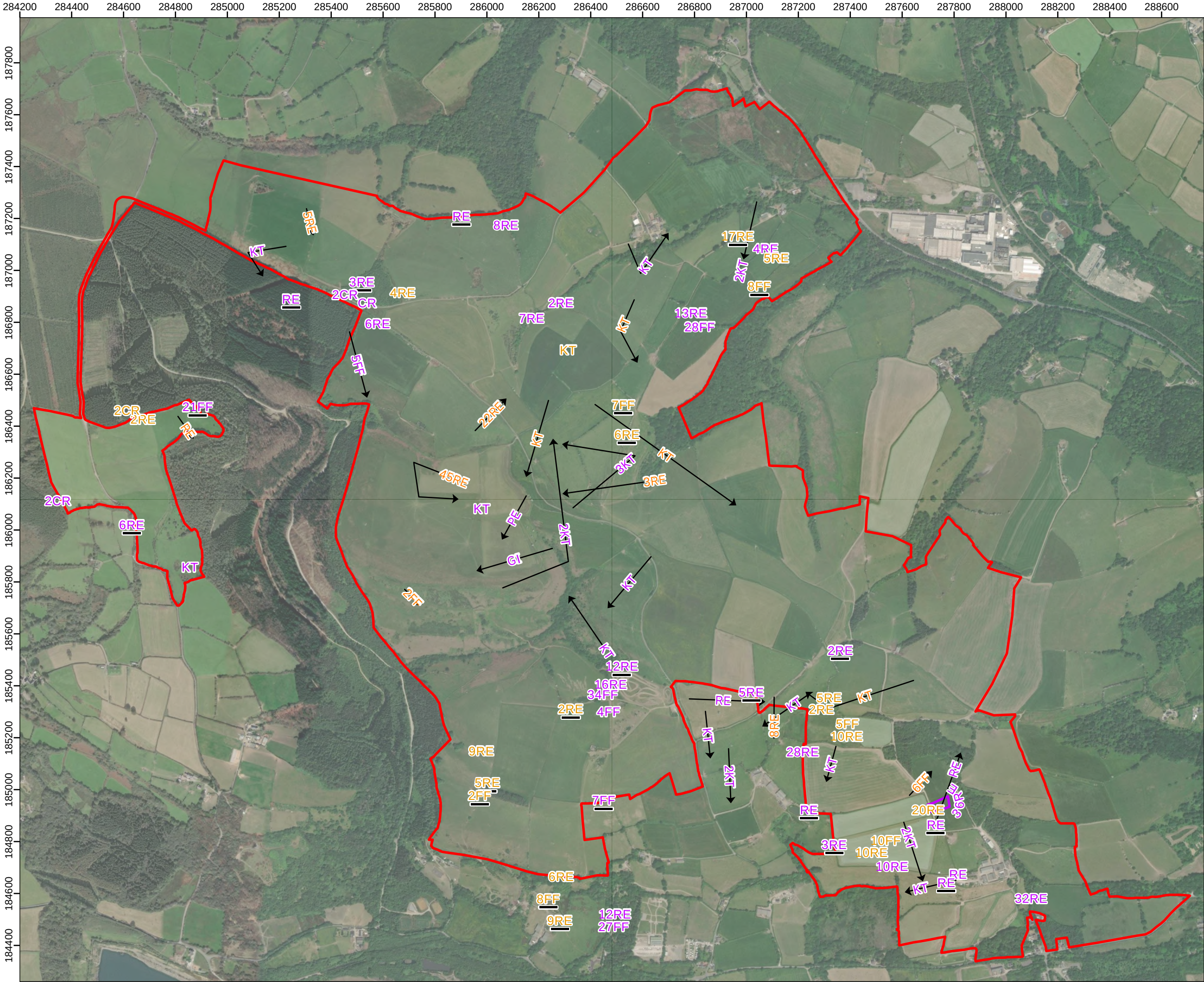
N

W

E

S

REV 00



Legend:

Site boundary

Bird Activity

✕➔ Flying over / circling

✕➔ Taking off

➔✕ Landing

Calling

Visit Number

1

2

Code	Species
CR	Crossbill
FF	Fieldfare
GI	Goshawk
PE	Peregrine
KT	Red kite
RE	Redwing

00	08/10/2025	2485114	TG	SP	NP
Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park

RSK
biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2:
Wintering Birds Survey Results
Schedule 1 and Annex 1 Species

0

170

340

510

Metres

SCALE: 1:13,500 @ A3

N

W

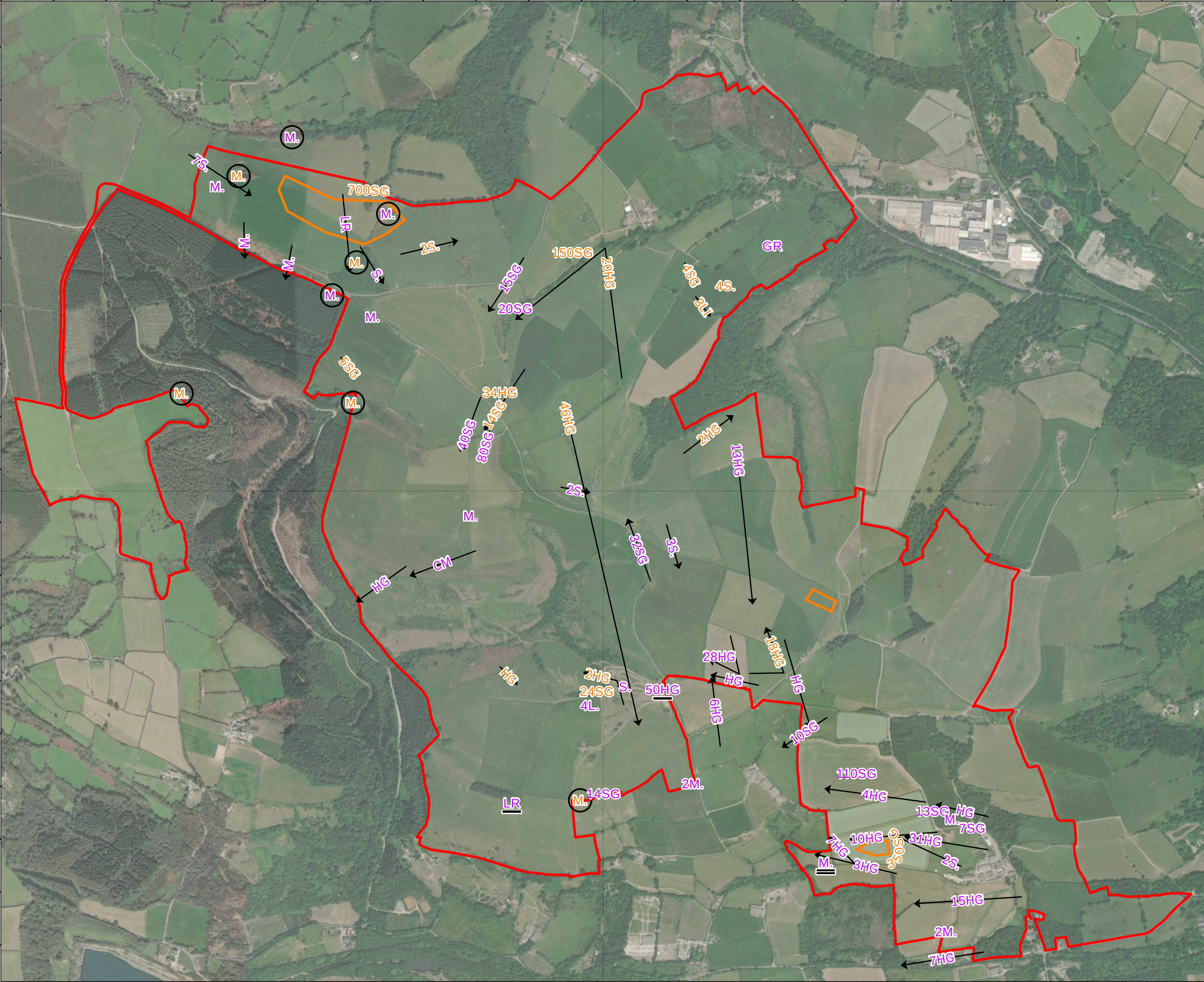
E

S

REV 00

284200 284400 284600 284800 285000 285200 285400 285600 285800 286000 286200 286400 286600 286800 287000 287200 287400 287600 287800 288000 288200 288400 288600

187800
187600
187400
187200
187000
186800
186600
186400
186200
186000
185800
185600
185400
185200
185000
184800
184600
184400



Legend:

Site boundary

Bird Activity

Flying over / circling

Taking off

Alarm Call

Calling

Singing

Visit Number

1

2

Species that are both Annex 1 and/or Schedule 1 and red listed can be found on figure 2

Code	Species
CM	Common gull
GR	Greenfinch
HG	Herring gull
L.	Lapwing
LR	Lesser redpoll
LI	Linnet
M.	Mistle thrush
S.	Skylark
SG	Starling



00	08/10/2025	2485114	TG	SP	NP
Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park



TITLE: Figure 3:
Wintering Birds Survey Results
Red List Species

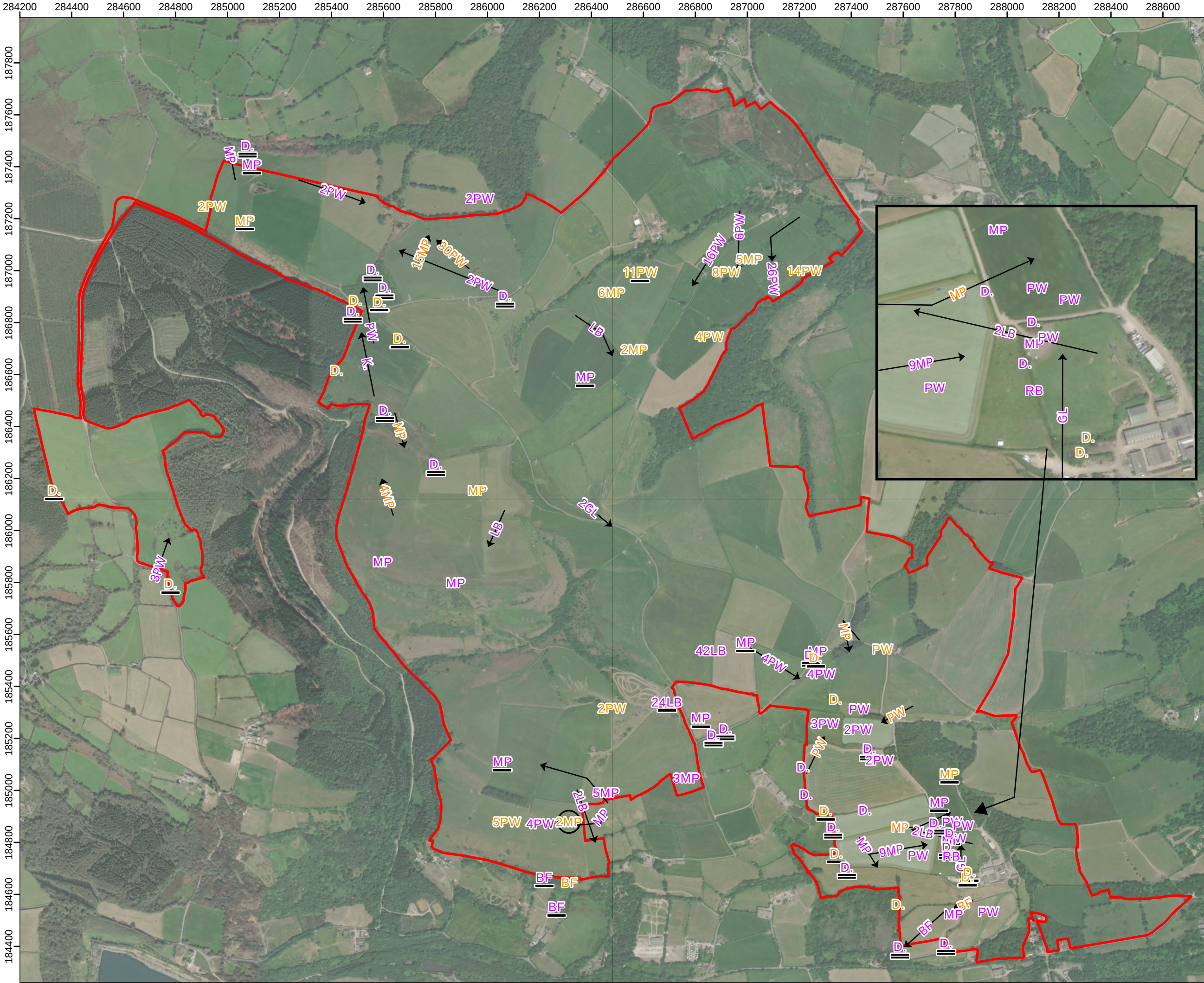
0170340510

Metres

SCALE: 1:13,500 @ A3

N
W
E
S

REV 00



Legend:

Site boundary

Bird Activity

- Flying over / circling
- Taking off
- Landing
- Alarm Call
- Calling
- Singing

Visit Number

- 1
- 2

Species that are both Annex 1 and/or Schedule 1 and amber listed can be found on figure 2

Code	Species
BF	Bullfinch
D.	Dunnock
GL	Grey wagtail
K.	Kestrel
MP	Meadow pipit
PW	Pied wagtail
RB	Reed bunting

00	08/10/2025	2485114	TG	SP	NP
Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 4a:
Wintering Birds Survey Results
Amber List Species

0170340510

Metres

SCALE: 1:13,500 @ A3

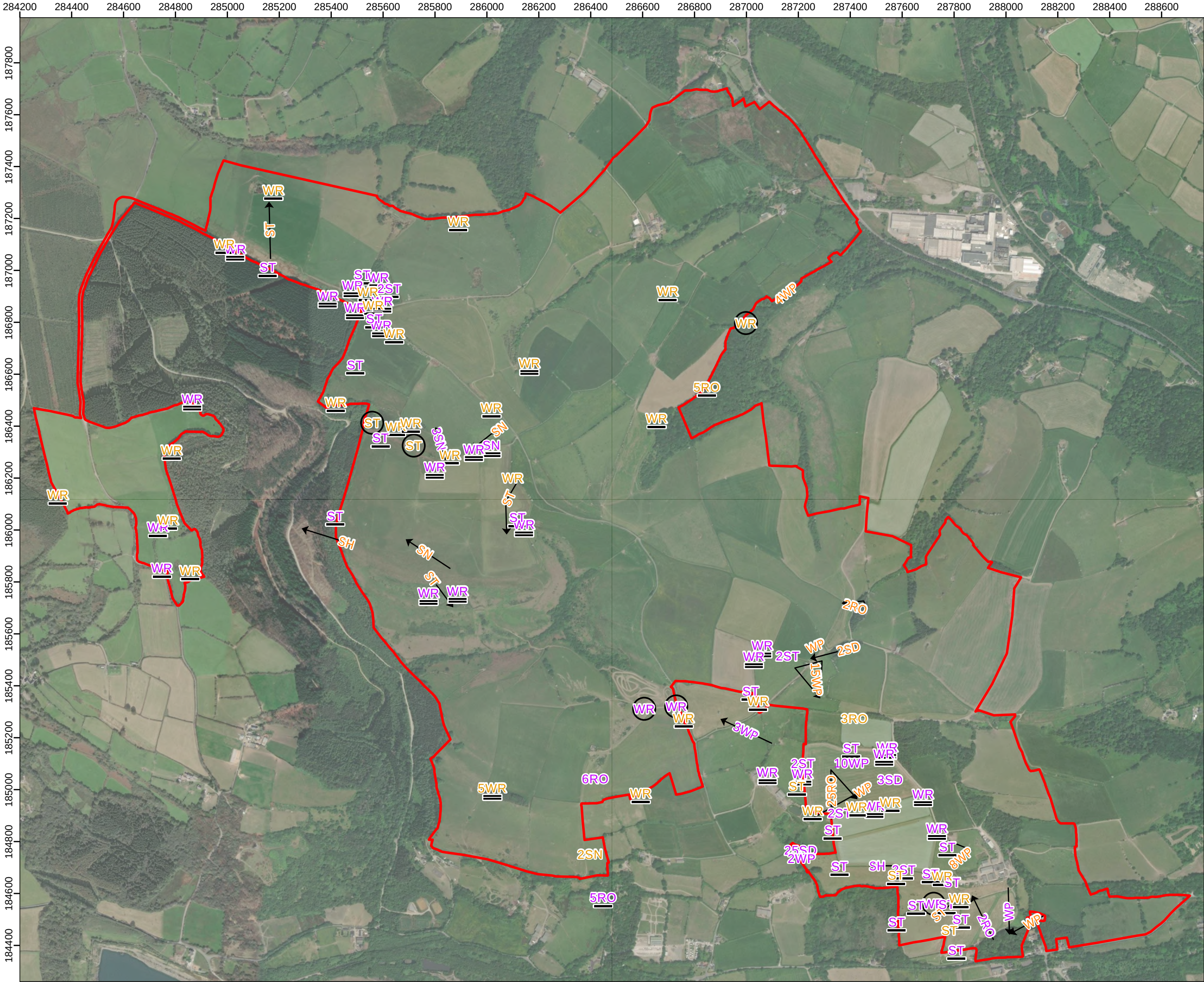
N

W

E

S

REV 00



Legend:

Site boundary
[Red outline]

Bird Activity
[Arrow with 'x'] Flying over / circling
[Arrow] Taking off
[Double line] Alarm Call
[Single line] Calling
[Circle] Singing

Visit Number
[Purple box] 1
[Orange box] 2

Species that are both Annex 1 and/or Schedule 1 and amber listed can be found on figure 2

Code	Species
RO	Rook
SN	Snipe
ST	Song thrush
SH	Sparrowhawk
SD	Stock dove
WR	Wren

00	08/10/2025	2485114	TG	SP	NP
Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 4b:
Wintering Birds Survey Results
Amber List Species (continued)

0170340510

Metres

SCALE: 1:13,500 @ A3

N
W
E
S

REV 00

ANNEX B: FIELD SURVEY DATA

Full wintering bird survey data for the surveys of the Site undertaken in December 2024 and January 2025 are provided below.

Species			Peak Count		Total Count
Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Visit 1	Visit 2	
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	43	51	94
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	9	29	38
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber, S7	3	2	5
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green	8	12	20
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	44	26	70
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	18	19	37
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	9	9	18
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Red	1	-	1
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Sch1	5	2	7
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber, S7	21	13	34
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Green	7	7	14
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Sch1, Red	126	48	174
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green	8	1	9

Galileo 03 Ltd.

Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park – Environmental Statement Volume III

663870

Species			Peak Count		Total Count
Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Visit 1	Visit 2	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	42	41	83
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Sch1, Green	1*	-	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green	1	3	4
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green	11	13	24
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Green	1	1	2
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Red	1	-	1
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green	1	-	1
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber	3	-	3
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red, S7	178	123	301
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red, S7	1	-	1
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green	424	9	433
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green	2	8	10
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber, S7	1	-	1
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red, S7, BridgeBAP	4	-	4
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber	72	-	72

Galileo 03 Ltd.

Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park – Environmental Statement Volume III

663870

Species			Peak Count		Total Count
Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Visit 1	Visit 2	
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red, S7	2	-	2
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red, S7	-	3	3
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green	18	16	34
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	9	6	15
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	31	40	71
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red	14	5	19
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green	1	1	2
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Anx1, Sch1	1	-	1
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Green	101	79	180
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Green	11	8	19
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Anx1, Sch1	21	5	26
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Sch1, Amber	213	196	409
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	S7, Amber, BridgeBAP	1	-	1
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	46	30	76
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber	13	35	48
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red, S7, BridgeBAP	16	6	22

Galileo 03 Ltd.

Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park – Environmental Statement Volume III

663870

Species			Peak Count		Total Count
Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Visit 1	Visit 2	
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber	4	4	8
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	S7, Amber	29	9	38
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber	1	1	2
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	S7, Red	341	1247	1588
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber	28	2	30
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green	3	-	3
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green	1	2	3
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	16	30	46
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	27	33	60

*Record of goshawk Unconfirmed