Laing O'Rourke

Margam Substation

Wintering birds survey report

2488240

APRIL 2025

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RSK GENERAL NOTES

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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.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this report

1.1.1 This report presents the findings of a wintering birds survey carried out at the National Grid Margam Substation on behalf of Laing O'Rourke.The survey was carried out by RSK Biocensus during the period October 2024-February 2025, to record the wintering bird populations present within, and in close proximity to, the site.

1.1.2 The surveys were completed following recommendations made within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Stantec, 2024[1]). The Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located just over 97 m from the southern boundary of the site. As the site is located in such close proximity to the SSSI, wintering bird surveys were advised within the Stantec report to assess whether any species present within the SSSI were also present within the site, and therefore may be impacted by the proposed works (Stantec, 2024 paragraph 4.4.34-35[1]).

1.2 Landscape context

1.2.1 The site is centered on OS grid reference: SS 78604 86387 and covers an area of just over 30 ha. The site comprises an existing substation and a mosaic of wet grassland, scrub and reedbed habitats.. It is located to the south of Margam, Port Talbot, approximately 270 m away from the closest housing estate, and immediately adjacent to and to the east of a Network Rail railway line serving the Port Talbot Tata Steel Works. The site borders an area of woodland, and the M4 corridor lies just over 660 m to the east.

1.2.2 The Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir (SSSI) comprises 110 ha of fresh water in the county and attracts a large number of wintering wildfowl and passage migrants. The site is designated for wintering waterfowl and passage migrant species as well as breeding species such as great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)*, little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis)*, mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos)*, gadwall (*Mareca strepera)* and coot (*Fulica atra)* (Natural Resources Wales, 1982[2]).

1.3 Proposals

1.3.1 The site is shown on Figure 1. The ownership of the site is split into two sections, the northern section owned by National Grid, referred to as 'Margam' shown as the red line on Figure, and the southern section owned by British Oxygen Company (BOC), referred to as 'BOC land' and shown as the blue line on Figure. References to 'the site' throughout this report include both areas of land.

1.3.2 The proposals for the site include an extension to the existing substation and associated cabling works. The extension is located to the east of the existing substation compound

[1] Stantec 2024 *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report, Margam, National Grid.* Stantec UK Limited 331201497

[2] https://naturalresources.wales/media/640641/SSSI_0331_Citation_EN001152a.pdf [Accessed February 2025]

and is required to facilitate the repurposing of the Tata Steel Works facility (located to the west of the site) from blast furnace steel production to an electrical arc furnace. The extension of the substation is being led by National Grid with Laing O'Rourke as the principal contractor.

1.4 Relevant legislation and guidance

European Commission Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)

1.4.1 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 British law through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)[3].

1.4.2 Species listed on Annex I 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) to conserve populations of these species throughout their distributions. These sites form part of the UK's national site network of core sites that are protected for rare and threatened species.

1.4.3 Bird species listed on Annex I of the Directive are those which are deemed to be:

- in danger of extinction;
- vulnerable to specific changes to their habitats;
- considered rare due to their small population sizes and/or restricted local distributions; and
- in need of particular attention due to the specific nature of their habitat requirements.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

1.4.4 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 intentionally:

- 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; and
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

1.4.5 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 intentionally or recklessly:

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

- disturb any such bird whilst building its nest or whilst it is in or near a nest containing eggs or dependent young; and
- disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

1.4.6 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 makes requirements for more sustainable and pro-active planning and management of natural resources within Wales. Part 1 of this legislation relates to the sustainable management of natural resources and, within this, Section 7 requires identification of species and habitats in Wales which are regarded as of 'principal importance to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and as such they are a material consideration during the planning process. Fifty-one bird species are listed as being species of 'principal importance' .

Birds of Conservation Concern

1.4.7 The Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) 4 Red, Amber and Green lists for Wales categorise the regularly occurring bird species according to their level of conservation concern (Johnstone *et al*, 2023)[4]. Although this listing confers no legal protection, it is useful in guiding conservation action for individual species when birds may be affected by plans or projects.

Red list species

1.4.8 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

1.4.9 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;

[4] Johnstone, I. G., Hughes, J., Balmer, D. E., Brenchley, A., Facey, R. J., Lindley, P. J., Noble, D. G., & Taylor, R. C. (2023). *Birds of Conservation Concern Wales 4: the population status of birds in Wales Birds of Conservation Concern Wales 4*. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/382462590_ [Accessed April 2025]

- 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

1.4.10 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.

2.0 METHOD

2.1 Field survey

2.1.1 The field survey for wintering birds were undertaken between October 2024 and February 2025 inclusive, in accordance with the Bird Survey Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Impacts (BSG) (Bird Survey and Assessment Steering Group, 2023)[5]. These comprised a series of six survey visits during which suitably experienced ornithologists walked a pre-determined transect route throughout the site.

2.1.2 The transect route was interspersed with stops, during which ornithologists scanned for birds using optical equipment. All bird species encountered (either visually or through their vocalisations) were recorded onto ArcGIS Field Maps software using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species codes and behaviour notation (Marchant, 1983)[6]. Any noteworthy observations within 100 m of the site boundary were recorded. Particular attention was given to undertaking counts of any notable aggregations of feeding and roosting birds such as waders, finches and thrushes, and to recording raptor roosting and foraging activity.

2.1.3 Considering the size of the site and the habitats present, one survey transect route was considered suitable, covering all accessible areas of the site (see Figure 1).

2.1.4 Survey visits were predominantly undertaken in suitable weather conditions, avoiding extreme temperatures, heavy rain, snow, or fog during which bird activity may be atypical and surveying may be impractical. The dates, timings, and weather conditions for the six survey visits are provided in Appendix A.

2.2 Interpretation of survey results

Overview

2.2.1 In order to assess the importance of the wintering birds populations recorded during the field survey, interpretation of the survey results considered the following:

- The importance of the populations recorded in the context of any nearby designated sites with features of ornithological interest;
- The conservation statuses of the species recorded (i.e., their inclusion on any of the legislation or conservation status categories described in Section 2);
- The sizes of the populations recorded (i.e., species abundance);
- The overall diversity of the wintering bird assemblage recorded; and
- The spatial patterns of wintering birds usage within the site, including areas and habitat types of particular importance to wintering birds.

[5] Bird Survey and Assessment Steering Group. (2023) *Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts*, v.0.1.6. [Available at: Bird Survey Guidelines | for ecological impact assessment – accessed February 2025].

[6] Marchant, J.H. (1983) *BTO Common Birds Census instructions*. BTO, Tring.

2.3 Conservation status

2.3.1 The assessment of the importance of the 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:

- EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Annex I species;
- The Environment Wales Act (2016) Section 7 species; and,
- BoCC 4 Wales Red and Amber list species.

2.4 Species abundance

2.4.1 The importance of the wintering bird populations recorded was assessed in the context of the sizes of those populations relative to international, national, and regional population estimates for the species in question.

2.5 Species diversity

2.5.1 The overall diversity of the wintering bird assemblage was assessed, taking into consideration the number of species recorded.

2.6 Survey limitations

2.6.1 Due to land access restrictions, the BOC land could not be accessed on survey visit 4. As such, a vantage point survey was completed from the edge of the Margam site. Due to the small scale of the site and owing to the topography being flat within this area, it is not thought that this limitation will have greatly impacted the results of the survey. Access was available to the whole site during the other five visits.

2.6.2 The transect route was designed to maximise coverage of the site. During survey visits 1-3, some areas of the site were deemed inaccessible as they were heavily waterlogged and overgrown. Due to the flat topography and small size of the site this limitation would not have greatly impacted the results of the survey.

2.6.3 While most survey visits were completed in suitable weather conditions, the fifth survey visit was accompanied by heavy showers.. These conditions were sub-optimal for recording wintering birds. However, as the visibility was not affected by the showers and considering the overall survey effort undertaken in the context of the suitability of the site for wintering birds, this is not considered to have significantly affected the validity of the wintering birds survey data or the findings of this report.

2.6.4 It should be noted that ecological features (e.g., bird populations) are transient, and that the distributions of habitats and species may be subject to change. As such, in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance, the

ecological survey data presented in this report are considered valid for at least two years (CIEEM, 2019)[7], after which it may be necessary for further field surveys to be undertaken.

[7] CIEEM. (2019). *Advice Note on the lifespan of ecological surveys and Reports.* Available from: https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf [Accessed February 2025]

3.0 FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Field survey

3.1.1 A total of 40 bird species were recorded during the field survey undertaken between October 2024 and February 2025 inclusive.

3.1.2 The species recorded during the wintering bird survey visits are provided in Table 1. The peak count for each species (i.e., the maximum number of birds recorded during a single survey visit) for the site are also provided in Table 1, with descriptions of their behaviour and distribution. An asterisk next to a species' name indicates that this species was recorded outside of the site boundary. The locations of notable species are shown on Figure 2a-2c.

Table 1 Summary of species recorded

Species			Peak count	Description
BTO code	Common name	Scientific name		
WP	Wood pigeon	*Columba palumbus*	18	Perching on the east of the site.
WA	Water rail	*Rallus aquaticus*	2	Calling predominantly in the north of the site.
MH	Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	1	Calling on site.
SN	Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	1	present the centre of the site both foraging and flushed from the ground.
CM	Common gull	*Larus canus*	4	Flew over the site.
HG	Herring gull	*Larus argentatus*	6	Flew over the site.
LB	Lesser black-back gull	*Larus fuscus*	1	Flew over the site.
CA	Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	4	Flew over the site.
ET	Little egret	*Egretta garzetta*	1	Flew over the site.
BZ	Buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	2	Flew over the site.
GS	Great spotted woodpecker	*Dendrocopos major*	2	Flew over the site.
K.	Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	1	Present on two occasions, perching within the south of the site.
J.	Jay	*Garrulus glandarius*	2	Recorded calling and perching on site.
MG	Magpie	*Pica pica*	2	Calling and foraging on site.
JD	Jackdaw	*Coloeus monedula*	4	Flew over the site.

Species			Peak count	Description
BTO code	Common name	Scientific name		
C.	Carrion crow	*Corvus corone*	10	Perching on trees and power cables in the north and the centre of the site.
RN	Raven	*Corvus corax*	1	Flew over the site.
CT	Coal tit	*Periparus ater*	1	Present in the north and south of the site in areas bordering woodland.
BT	Blue tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus*	21	Seen feeding and singing throughout the site with a greater distribution in the north where the site borders woodland.
GT	Great tit	*Parus major*	5	Singing and calling in areas of the site bordering woodland.
CW	Cetti's warbler	*Cettia cetti*	10	Frequently recorded singing throughout the site.
LT	Long-tailed tit	*Aegithalos caudatus*	15	Small flocks frequently recorded calling to each other throughout the site.
CC	Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*	2	Present in the centre of the site.
GC	Goldcrest	*Regulus regulus*	3	Foraging and calling in areas with taller tree cover on site.
WR	Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	12	Foraging, singing and calling throughout the site.
ST	Song thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	4	Foraging and loafing.
RE	Redwing	*Turdus iliacus*	6	Calling throughout the site.
B.	Blackbird	*Turdus merula*	9	Foraging in areas with greater scrub cover towards the north and south of the site.
R.	Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*	13	Frequently recorded calling, singing and foraging throughout the site.
SC	Stonechat	*Saxicola rubicola*	3	Foraging and loafing on site.
D.	Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	7	Predominantly recorded foraging and calling in the north of the site.
GL	Grey wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	3	Foraging and calling in close proximity to the existing substation.
MP	Meadow pipit	*Anthus pratensis*	9	Flew over the site..
CH	Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*	5	Recorded calling around areas with greater scrub cover.
BF	Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	4	Calling and perching, mainly within the southern end of the site.
LI	Linnet	*Linaria cannabina*	2	Calling in south of site.
FR	Common redpoll	*Acanthis flammea*	1	Flew over the site.

Species			Peak count	Description
BTO code	Common name	Scientific name		
GO	Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*	7	Flew over as well as calling and perching on site.
SK	Siskin	*Spinus spinus*	1	Present during one visit on the edge of the survey site bordering woodland to the south.
RB	Reed bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	2	Present in the east of the site.

4.0 EVALUATION

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 An assessment of the importance of the wintering birds populations recorded within the site is provided below, taking into consideration:

- Their relevance to any nearby designated sites with features of ornithological interest;
- 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); and
- The overall diversity of the wintering bird assemblage (i.e., species diversity).

4.2 Designated sites

4.2.1 One nationally designated site with features of ornithological interest is present within 2 km of the site: The Eglwys Nunydd Reservior (SSSI), approximately 97 m south from the site boundary. None of the species specifically listed as qualifying features of the SSSI were recorded on site during the wintering birds survey. The site is, therefore, not considered to be an important resource for the wintering bird populations of the Eglwys Nunydd Reservior SSSI.

4.3 Conservation status

4.3.1 Of the 40 species recorded during the 2024/2025 field survey for wintering birds, the majority comprised common and widespread species typical of similar and suitable habitat in the surrounding area. Eighteen of the 40 species are species of principal importance and/or of conservation concern. The conservation status of these species is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 - Specially protected and notable species recorded

Species	Conservation status category				
	Schedule 1	Annex I	S7	Red	Amber
Water rail					X
Snipe					X
Common gull					X
Herring gull			X	X	
Lesser black-backed gull				X	
Little egret		X			X

Species	Conservation status category				
	Schedule 1	Annex I	S7	Red	Amber
Kestrel			X	X	
Magpie					X
Coal tit					X
Cetti's warbler	X				
Goldcrest					X
Redwing	X				
Dunnock			X		X
Grey wagtail					X
Meadow pipit				X	
Chaffinch					X
Bullfinch			X		X
Linnet			X	X	
Redpoll			X		X
Reed bunting			X		

4.3.2 Two Schedule 1 species were recorded: Cetti's warbler and redwing. Schedule 1 refers to breeding birds only and, redwing are not known to breed in Wales. As such it is likely the individuals recorded will have been present in the area during the winter or on passage only. Neither species are considered to be of particular conservation concern, being listed as 'green' within the BoCCW4 list[4].

4.3.3 One EC Birds Directive Annex I species was recorded: little egret. However, only one individual was recorded on site during one survey visit, indicating that this site of not of particular importance for this species. This species is locally common and becoming increasingly frequent in the local area[8].

4.3.4 Seven species are considered to be of principal importance for biodiversity in Wales, as defined by Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016: herring gull, kestrel, dunnock, bullfinch, linnet, redpoll, and reed bunting. Whilst these are considered to be priority species for conservation, they are all comparatively numerous species in the local area.

4.3.5 Five species are included in the BoCCW4 Red List: herring gull, lesser black-backed gull, kestrel, meadow pipit, and linnet. Twelve species are included in the BoCCW4 Amber list: water rail, snipe, common gull, little egret, magpie, coal tit, goldcrest, dunnock, grey wagtail, chaffinch, bullfinch, and redpoll. Due to the removal of reedbed across the Enabling Works area, the proposed works have the potential to impact upon these species.

[8] Bradshaw, R., Davies, S., Hibler, D., Jenkins-Jones Ceri Jones, D., Rosney, A., Wilson, J., Haslam Robert Bradshaw David Carrington Strinda Davies Paul Denning Mary Gallagher Ceri Jones Wayne Morris Alan Rosney John Western Rhos Williams John Wilson, J., Bristow, P., Roberts, P., Gabb, O., Jones, R., Powell, M., Stewart, B., & Taylor, R. (2024). East Glamorgan Bird Report No. 61 2022. www.glamorganbirds.org.uk

4.4 Species abundance

4.4.1 Based on the peak counts for the species recorded during the wintering birds survey, no species were present in numbers of international or national importance. The species recorded are widespread and common in the context of similar habitats within this area.

4.5 Species diversity

4.5.1 A total of 40 species were recorded during the field survey visits undertaken between October 2024 and February 2025 inclusive. Species diversity appeared to be highest in the areas bordering woodland habitat to the east.

4.6 Site usage by wintering birds

4.6.1 A range of common and widespread species were recorded using the scrub and wet grassland habitats on site. The two most frequently recorded bird species, wren and robin, were evenly distributed throughout the site whilst tit species, thrushes and dunnock were recorded in greater numbers in denser scrub cover and areas bordering woodland to the east. Siskin and coal tit which are woodland specialists were the only two species recorded exclusively outside the site boundary using broadleaf semi-natural woodland habitat. Other species closely associated with woodland habitats including common redpoll and great spotted woodpecker were recorded flying over the site but did not land within the site.

4.6.2 Snipe, which prefer to forage in swamp and marshy grassland habitats, were recorded on two occasions using the centre of the site which is more open and contains less areas of dense scrub. The distribution of Cetti's warblers is closely associated with areas of standing water, swamp and continuous scrub habitats, with fewer birds recorded within the predominantly marshy grassland habitat of the BOC land to the south. Similarly, observations of water rail, moorhen and grey wagtail were largely confined to areas of standing water.

4.6.3 Species including stonechat, linnet and goldfinch were found in both dense scrub in the north of the site as well as marshy grassland in the south of the site on BOC land.

4.6.4 Larger bird species such as buzzard, little egret, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull and common gull were recorded flying over the site, but did not interact with it.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1.1 A total of 40 species were recorded during the field surveys undertaken between October 2024 and February 2025 inclusive, two of which were recorded outside of the site boundary within the survey area. Eighteen of these 40 species are species of principal importance and/or of conservation concern; these included one EC Birds Directive Annex I species, seven species defined by Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, five species included on the BoCCW4 Red List and twelve species included on the BoCCW4 Amber list. In addition, two Schedule 1 species were recorded.

5.1.2 One nationally designated site with features of ornithological interest was found within 2 km of the site; The Eglwys Nunydd Reservior (SSSI) is located 97 m south from the site boundary. None of the species listed as qualifying features of the SSSI were recorded on the four wintering bird surveys and, therefore, the site is not considered to be integral to the wintering bird populations of the Eglwys Nunydd Reservior SSSI.

5.1.3 The wintering bird assemblage recorded within and in close proximity to the site is considered to be of local importance and consists of widespread and common species expected within the context of similar habitats within this area.

5.1.4 The wintering bird population was evenly distributed throughout the site with passerines recorded in greater numbers within denser scrub cover and areas bordering broadleaf continuous woodland to the east. Species including Cetti's warbler, water rail and moorhen were found within of close to areas of standing water whilst snipe were found to be using areas of swamp and marshy grassland habitat. Other species such buzzard, little egret and three gull species were recorded flying over the site but did not interact with it.

5.1.5 Due to the removal of reedbed across the Early Works area, the proposed works have the potential to impact upon these species.

FIGURES

Note: No changes were made to the figures in Revision 01.

World_Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft
Hybrid Reference Layer: Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS
OS Open Rasters: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2022

Legend:

Site Boundaries

- National Grid land
- BOC land
- Walked transect routes

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TITLE: Figure 1:

Site Plan

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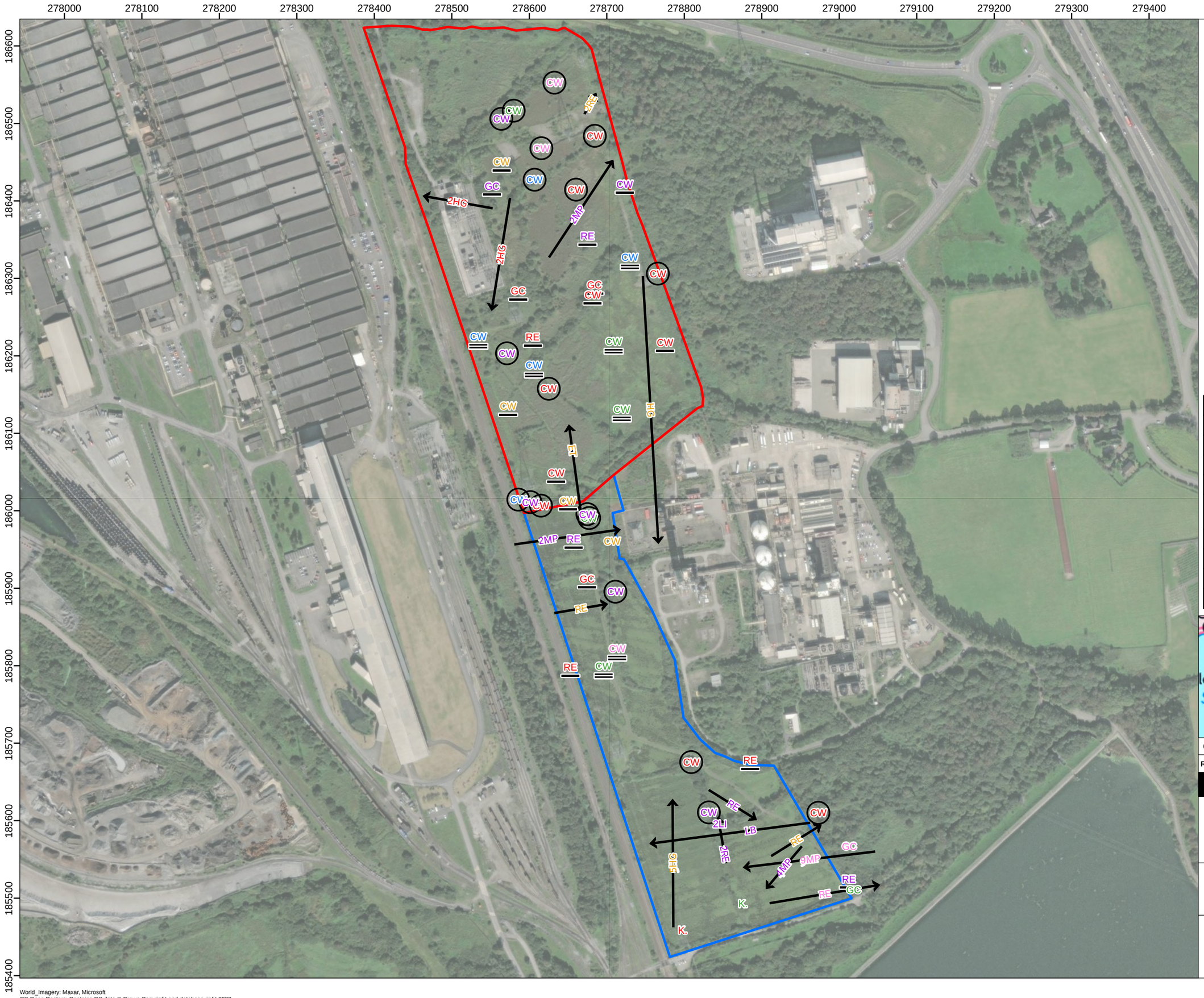


Legend:

Site Boundaries

- National Grid land
- BOC land

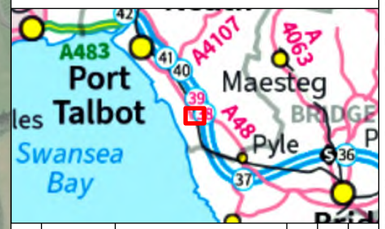
Bird Activity

- Flying over
- Singing
- Calling
- Alarm Call

Visit Number

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

Code	Species
CW	Cetti's warbler
GC	Goldcrest
HG	Herring gull
K.	Kestrel
LB	Lesser black-backed gull
LI	Linnet
ET	Little egret
MP	Meadow pipit
RE	Redwing



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TITLE: Figure 2a:
Wintering Bird Survey Results
Schedule 1, Annex 1 and
Red List Species

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SCALE: 1:4,500 @ A3

REV 00

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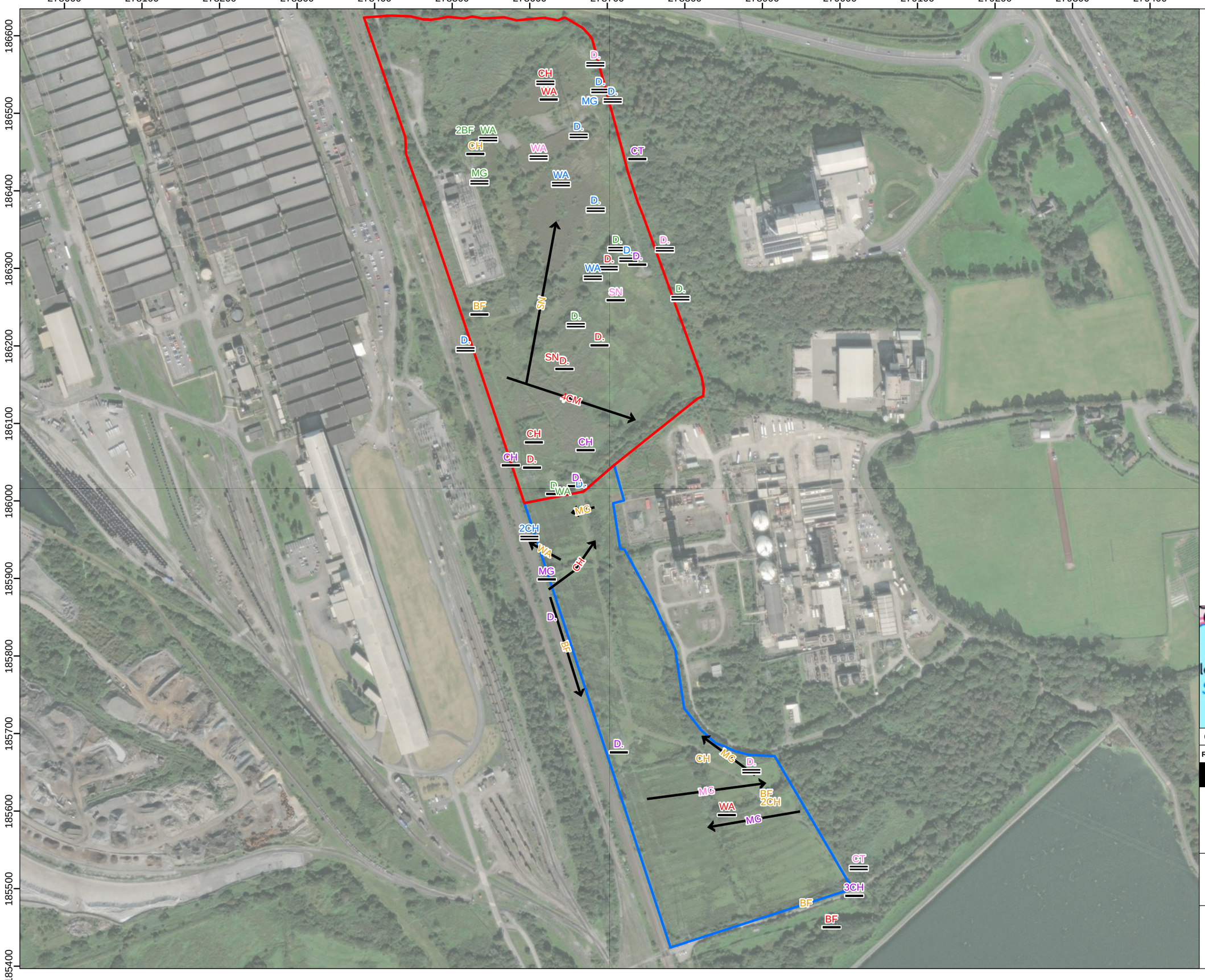


Legend:

Site Boundaries

- National Grid land
- BOC land

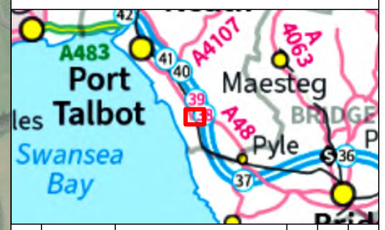
Bird Activity

- Flying over
- Calling
- Alarm Call

Visit Number

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

Code	Species
BF	Bullfinch
CH	Chaffinch
CT	Coal tit
CM	Common gull
D.	Dunnock
MG	Magpie
SN	Snipe
WA	Water rail



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	17/02/2025	2488240	TG	RH	AH

Margam Substation Port Talbot

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2b:
Wintering Bird Survey Results
Amber List Species

0 50 100 150
Metres
SCALE: 1:4,500 @ A3

REV 00

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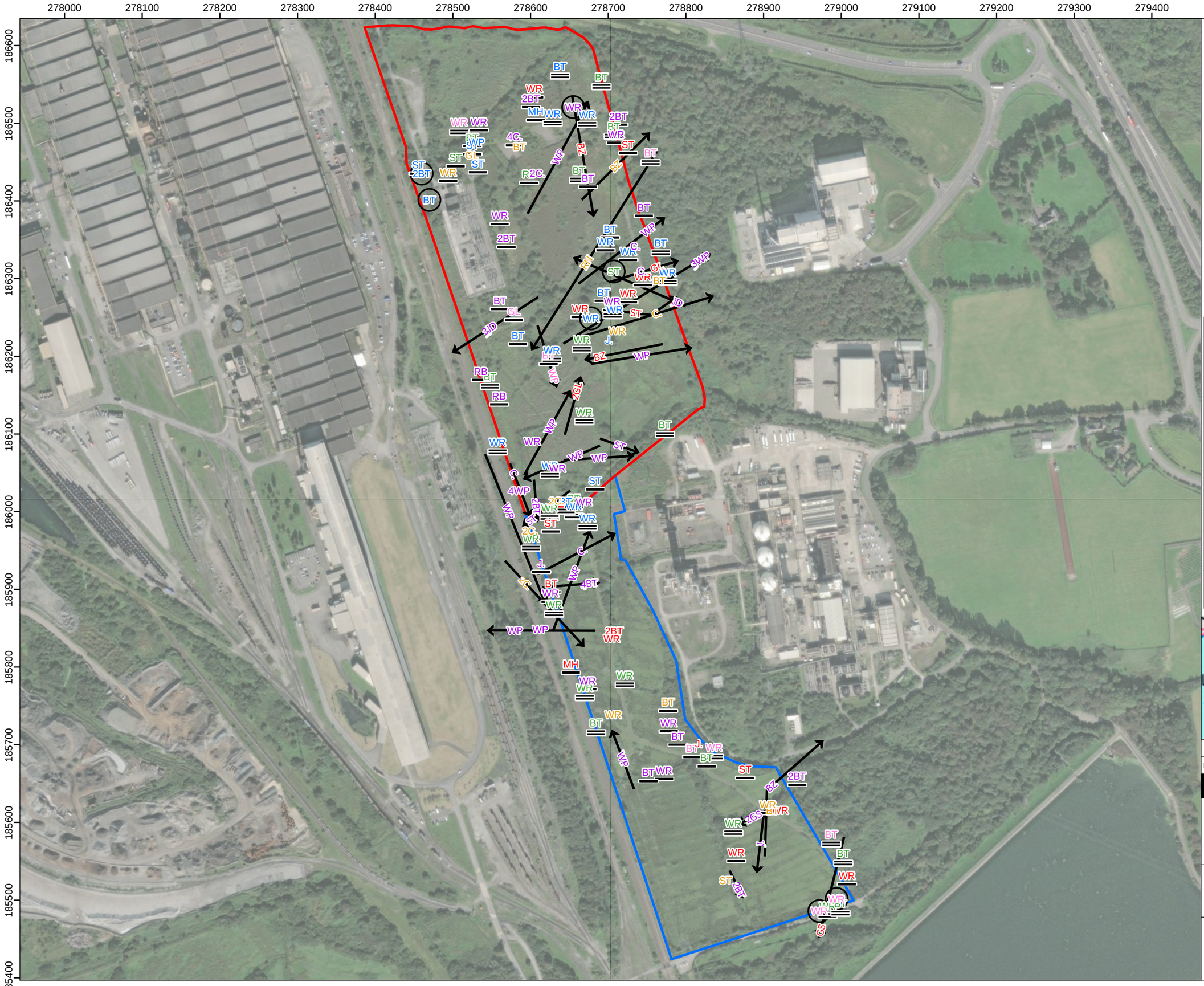


Legend:

Site Boundaries

- National Grid land
- BOC land

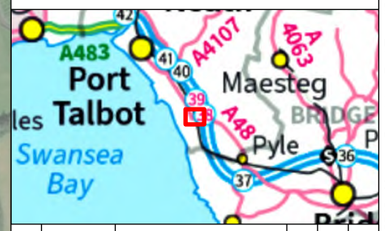
Bird Activity

- Flying over
- Singing
- Calling
- Alarm Call

Visit Number

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

Code	Species
BT	Blue tit
BZ	Buzzard
C.	Carrion crow
GS	Great spotted woodpecker
GL	Grey wagtail
JD	Jackdaw
J.	Jay
MH	Moorhen
RN	Raven
RB	Reed bunting
ST	Song thrush
WP	Woodpigeon
WR	Wren



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	17/02/2025	2488240	TG	RH	AH

Margam Substation Port Talbot

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2c:
Wintering Bird Survey Results
Other Species
Sheet 1 of 2

0 50 100 150
Metres
SCALE: 1:4,500 @ A3

REV 00

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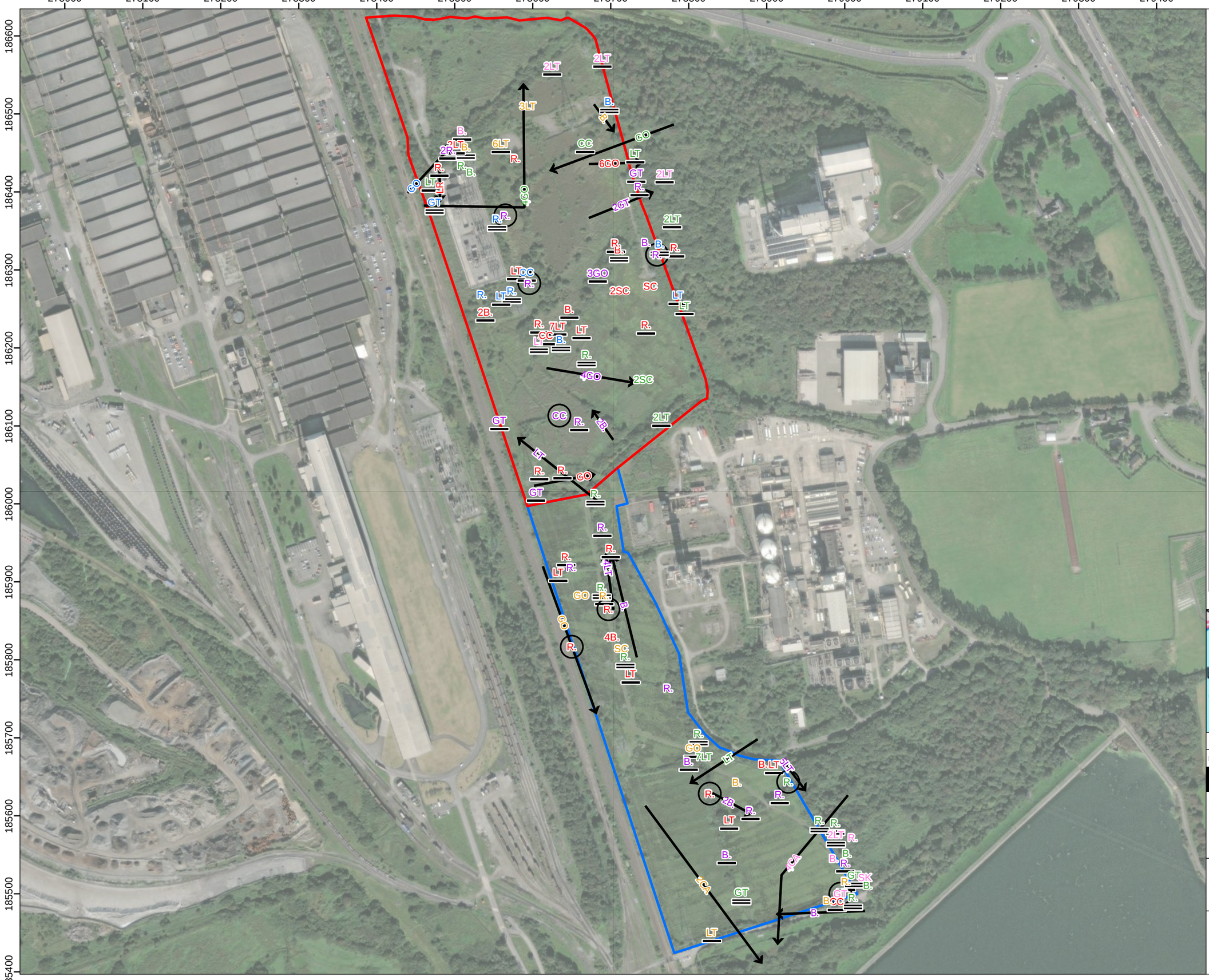


Legend:

Site Boundaries

- National Grid land
- BOC land

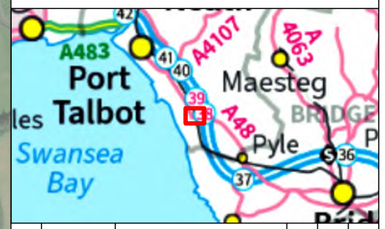
Bird Activity

- Flying over
- Singing
- Calling
- Alarm Call

Visit Number

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

Code	Species
B.	Blackbird
CC	Chiffchaff
CA	Cormorant
GO	Goldfinch
GT	Great tit
LR	Lesser redpoll
LT	Long-tailed tit
R.	Robin
SK	Siskin
SC	Stonechat



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	17/02/2025	2488240	TG	RH	AH

Margam Substation Port Talbot

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 2c:
Wintering Bird Survey Results
Other Species
Sheet 2 of 2

0 50 100 150
Metres
SCALE: 1:4,500 @ A3

REV 00

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APPENDIX A – SURVEY DETAILS

Table 3 Survey dates, timings and weather conditions

Visit no.	Date	Timing	Temp. (ºC)	Weather conditions
1	22 October 2024	08:15 - 11:30	11-14	Light rain showers, light breeze, overcast and good visibility.
2	20 November 2024	08:00 – 11:00	2	Cloud cover 85%, Wind 4 northwest, scattered sleet.
3	06 December 2024	09:00 – 12:00	9	Light rain showers, a light air, light cloud cover and good visibility.
4	13 January 2024	12:15 – 13:15	9	Dry with a light breeze, overcast and good visibility.
5	28 January 2024	13:00 – 15:00	9	Heavy showers with a moderate breeze, overcast and good visibility.
6	11 February 2025	12:30 – 15:00	5	Dry with light breeze, overcast and good visibility,

Table 4 Full survey data

Species			Peak Count per Visit						Peak Count	Total Count
Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6		
Woodpigeon	*Columba palumbus*	Green	18	0	0	1	1	0	18	20
Water rail	*Rallus aquaticus*	Amber	0	1	2	2	1	2	2	8
Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	Green	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2
Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	Amber	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	3
Common gull	*Larus canus*	Amber	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	4
Herring gull	*Larus argentatus*	Section 7, Red	0	6	4	0	0	0	6	10

Species			Peak Count per Visit							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6	Peak Count	Total Count
Lesser black-backed gull	*Larus fuscus*	Red	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	Green	0	2	0	0	4	0	4	6
Little egret	*Egretta garzetta*	Annex I, Green	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	Green	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	4
Great spotted woodpecker	*Dendrocopos major*	Green	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	Section 7, Red	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
Jay	*Garrulus glandarius*	Green	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	4
Magpie	*Pica pica*	Amber	2	2	0	1	1	1	2	7
Jackdaw	*Coloeus monedula*	Green	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Carrion crow	*Corvus corone*	Green	10	7	0	0	0	0	10	17
Raven	*Corvus corax*	Green	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Coal tit	*Periparus ater*	Amber	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Blue tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus*	Green	21	4	3	9	4	11	21	52
Great tit	*Parus major*	Green	5	0	0	1	1	2	5	9
Cetti's warbler	*Cettia cetti*	Schedule 1, Green	7	4	10	5	3	5	10	34
Long-tailed tit	*Aegithalos caudatus*	Green	10	10	15	2	9	15	15	61
Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*	Green	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	5
Goldcrest	*Regulus regulus*	Red	1	0	3	0	1	1	3	6
Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	Green	12	4	8	12	4	10	12	50
Song thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	Green	2	1	4	4	0	2	4	13
Redwing	*Turdus iliacus*	Schedule 1, Green	6	4	3	0	1	0	6	14
Blackbird	*Turdus merula*	Green	9	4	9	3	2	3	9	30
Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*	Green	13	2	13	3	1	10	13	42

Species			Peak Count per Visit						Peak Count	Total Count
Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6		
Stonechat	*Saxicola rubicola*	Green	0	1	3	0	0	2	3	6
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	Section 7, Amber	4	0	4	7	3	4	7	22
Grey wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	Amber	0	1	3	0	1	0	3	5
Meadow pipit	*Anthus pratensis*	Red	8	0	0	0	9	0	9	17
Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*	Amber	5	4	3	2	0	0	5	14
Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	Section 7, Amber	0	4	1	0	0	2	4	7
Linnet	*Linaria cannabina*	Section 7, Red	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Common redpoll	*Acanthis cabaret*	Section 7, Amber	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*	Green	7	3	7	1	0	5	7	23
Siskin	*Spinus spinus*	Green	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Reed bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	Section 7, Green	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	3