

Ecology Technical Note



Land East of Crick Road,
Caldicot
25th July 2024



Tyler
Grange

TG Report No. 16528_R01_JS

Project No:	Report No.	Date	Revision
16528	R01	25th July 2024	-
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Section 1: Introduction and Context

Introduction

- 1.1. This report has been prepared by Tyler Grange Group Ltd on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council. It sets out the results of breeding bird surveys (BBS), completed at the site between March and July 2024 at the land east of Crick Road, Caldicot, Monmouthshire, NP26 5UT. (OS Grid Reference ST 49213 89303), hereafter referred to as 'the site'. See Figure 1.1 for the indicative red line boundary.



Figure 1.1: Indicative red line boundary (© Google Aerial Imagery)

- 1.2. Tyler Grange previously produced a technical note to detail the results of the Wintering Bird Surveys (WBS) undertaken at the site throughout the months of December 2023 to March 2024 (report ref: **16582_R01_Wintering Bird Technical Note_28032024**), which should be viewed in conjunction with this report.
- 1.3. The WBS technical note included the recommendations for the completion of Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) at the site in 2024 to inform a suitable mitigation strategy and future planning application.

Purpose

- 1.4. This report:



- Presents the results of breeding bird surveys completed at the site between March and July 2024.
- Discusses further survey work in respect to birds and in line with the current guidance, in order to inform a future planning application and ensure compliance with legislation.



Section 2: Methodology

Breeding Bird Surveys

- 2.1. The survey methodology followed guidance produced by the Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group for non-breeding bird surveys¹. The objective of the surveys was to identify the scale and distribution of breeding bird populations within/adjacent to the site and the areas that they favour.
- 2.2. The survey area comprised the red line boundary that is scheduled for development (see **Plan 16528/P01**) plus 100m in all directions around the site where access/views permitted.
- 2.3. The surveys covered the core breeding period; commencing in March 2024 and concluding in July 2024, with a total of six surveys undertaken in this period.
- 2.4. Although the same survey route was used during all visits, the starting point and survey direction were alternated during each survey so that all areas were covered at varied times to ensure even coverage during the peak periods of bird activity.
- 2.5. The conservation status of the birds observed was ascertained through consultation of national, regional and local bird reports.
- 2.6. Dates, times and weather conditions are presented below in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1. Date, Time, and Weather Conditions

Visit	Date	Time		Weather (temperature, Beaufort scale wind, cloud cover)	
		Start	End	Start	End
1	29/03/2024	06:45	09:00	8°C, 1 bft, 85% cc	14°C, 1 bft, 85% cc
2	18/04/2024	06:40	09:00	3°C, 1 bft, 20% cc	4°C, 1 bft, 20% cc
3	07/05/2024	06:10	08:30	12°C, 2 bft, 50% cc	20°C, 2 bft, 30% cc
4	06/06/2024	20:30	22:45	16°C, 1 bft, 10% cc	8°C, 1 bft, 10% cc
5	20/06/2024	05:20	07:30	11°C, 1 bft, 60% cc	15°C, 0 bft, 60% cc
6	11/07/2024	05:30	07:30	7°C, 0 bft, 100% cc	14°C, 0 bft, 100% cc

¹ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2023). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.1.0. Available at: <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org>



Section 3: Breeding Bird Survey Results

Breeding Bird Surveys

- 3.1. 37 bird species were recorded onsite/immediately adjacent to the site during the surveys, from March to July. Of these, 16 are species of Conservation Concern, with peak numbers and frequency of recordings highlighted in **Table 3.3**.

Table 3.3. Birds of Conservation Concern within Site/Immediately Adjacent, during March to July

Species	BTO Code	Survey Visits Recorded	Peak Numbers	Conservation Status	Location
Blackbird	B.	6	4	Green	On site
Black Cap	BC	5	3	Green	On site
Bluetit	BT	5	7	Green	On site and adjacent
Buzzard	BZ	6	3	Green	On site and adjacent
Carrion Crow	C.	6	7	Green	On site and adjacent
Chiffchaff	CC	6	5	Green	On site
Canada Goose	CG.	1	1	Green	Adjacent
Chaffinch	CH	3	3	Green	On site
Dunnock	D.	5	5	Amber	On site
Fieldfare	FF	2	1	Red	On site
Green Woodpecker	G.	1	1	Green	On site
Great black-backed gull	GB	1	10	Amber	On site
Goldcrest	GC	3	1	Green	On site and adjacent
Goldfinch	GO	1	14	Green	On site and adjacent
Greenfinch	GR	1	1	Red	On site
Great Spotted Woodpecker	GS	2	3	Green	On site and adjacent
Great Tit	GT	5	5	Green	On site
Herring Gull	HG	3	5	Red	On site and adjacent
House Martin	HM	3	6	Red	On site
House Sparrow	HS	5	Flock (>20)	Red	On site



Species	BTO Code	Survey Visits Recorded	Peak Numbers	Conservation Status	Location
Jackdaw	JD	4	2	Green	On site and adjacent
Lesser Black-backed Gull	LB	5	10	Amber	On site
Linnet	LI	5	2	Red	On site
Long Tailed Tit	LT	4	5	Green	On site and adjacent
Mistle Thrush	M.	1	1	Red	On site
Mallard	MA	2	3	Amber	On site and adjacent
Magpie	MG	5	2	Green	On site and adjacent
Nuthatch	NH	4	4	Green	On site
Pied Wagtail	PW	2	2	Green	On site and adjacent
Robin	R.	6	15	Green	On site and adjacent
Raven	RN	2	7	Green	On site and adjacent
Skylark	S.	5	3	Red	On site and adjacent
Starling	SG	6	22	Red	On site and adjacent
Song Thrush	ST	5	3	Amber	On site
Treecreeper	TC	4	1	Green	On site and adjacent
Woodpigeon	WP	6	8	Amber	On site and adjacent
Wren	WR	5	7	Amber	On site and adjacent

- 3.2. The results of each survey visit between March and July, along with the location of the recorded birds can be seen on Plans **16582/P06-P011**.



Section 4: Conclusion and Recommendations

- 4.1. Both wintering and breeding bird surveys have been undertaken at the site, throughout the months of December 2023 to July 2024. 44 different bird species were recorded across all surveys, which included a total of 21 species of Conservation Concern.

Relevant Legislation, Mitigation and Enhancements

- 4.2. All birds, their nests and eggs, are protected by law and as such it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird; intentionally take, damage, or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; and intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- 4.3. To avoid triggering the legislation protecting nesting birds, clearance of suitable nesting bird habitat should be timed outside the nesting bird season (generally taken as March to September inclusive, though this is not defined in law and birds may nest outside of this time). If any clearance works to nesting habitats are required during the nesting season, then pre-removal checks for nesting birds must be carried out by a suitably experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), no more than 48 hours prior to the works commencing. If any nesting birds are found to be present, an appropriate buffer zone will be implemented, within which works are excluded for the duration of the breeding attempt. Any active nests will need to be left in situ until a suitably experienced ecologist confirms that the chicks have fledged and the nest is no longer active.
- 4.4. There is suitable foraging, breeding and nesting habitat on site for birds (hedgerows, individual trees). It is recommended where possible, suitable habitat is retained. If this is not possible appropriate mitigation as detailed above would be required. In addition, enhancements to all bird species could include the provision of bird boxes attached to existing trees and/or buildings on site.

Conclusion

- 4.5. The implementation of the mitigation and enhancement measures described above will ensure that the proposed development avoids impacts to any bird species that may use the site, and will allow the site to be developed in accordance with relevant planning policy and legislation.



Plans:

Plan 1: Habitat Features Plan (**16528/P01**)

Plan 2: Breeding Bird Survey March (**16528/P06**)

Plan 3: Breeding Bird Survey April (**16528/P07**)

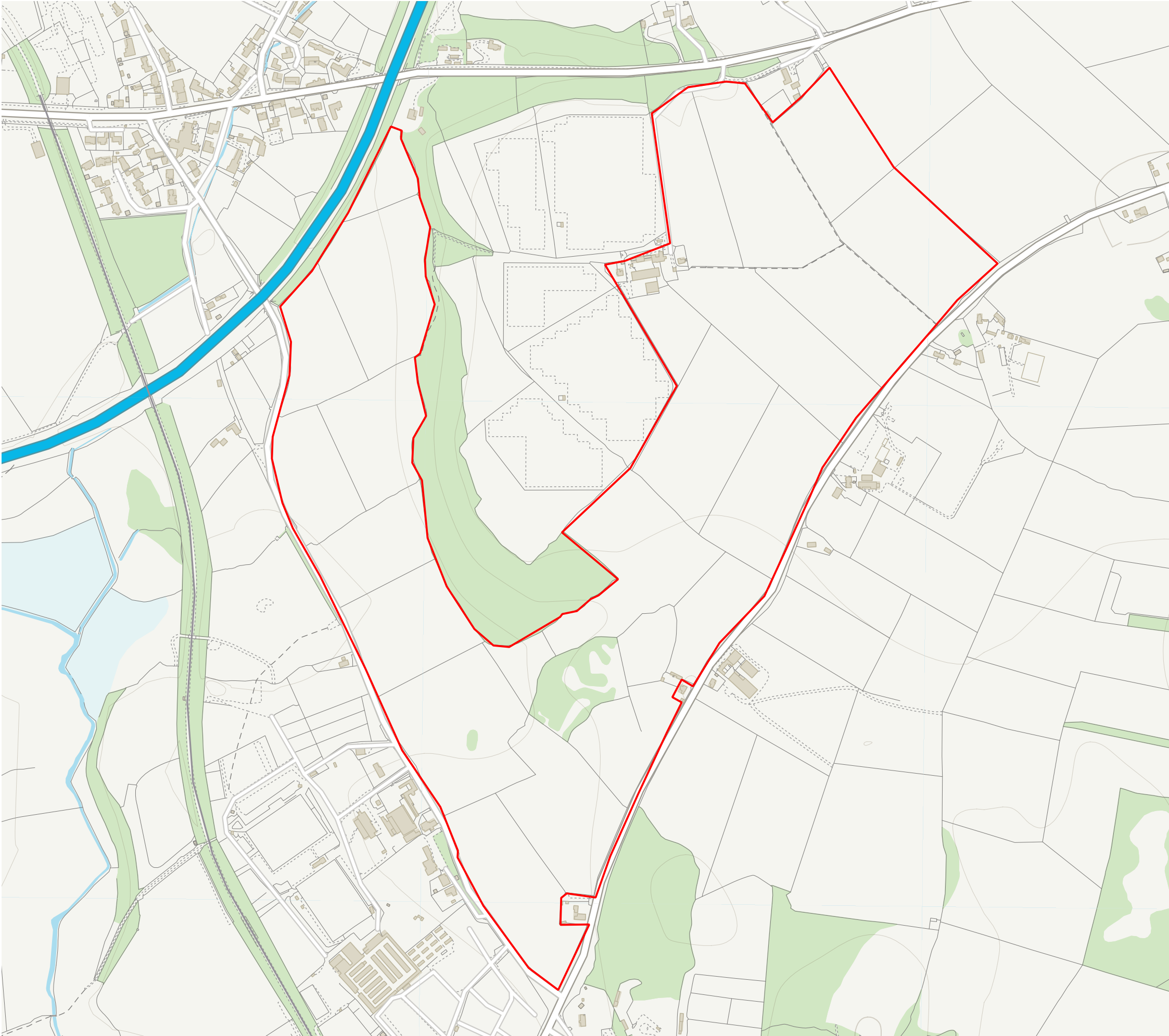
Plan 4: Breeding Bird Survey May (**16528/P08**)

Plan 5: Breeding Bird Survey June V1 (**16528/P09**)

Plan 6: Breeding Bird Survey June V2 (**16528/P10**)

Plan 7: Breeding Bird Survey July (**16528/P11**)

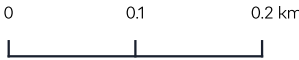




Legend

Boundaries

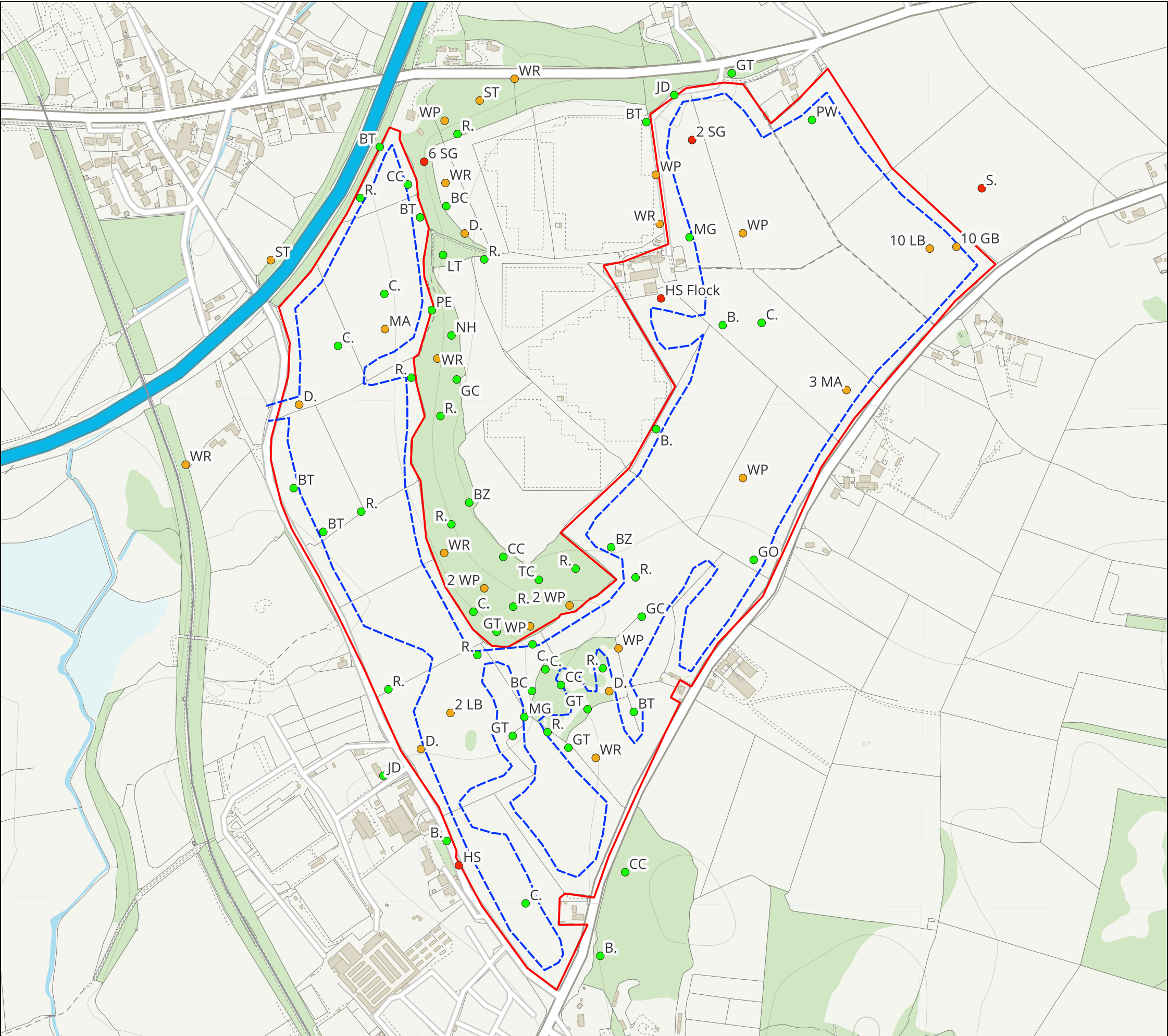
 Redline Boundary



Project	Land east of Crick Road
Drawing Title	Red Line Boundary Plan
Scale	As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No.	16528/P01
Date	December 2023
Checked	LB/RC



Runway East, 101 Victoria Street, Bristol BS1 6PU
T: 0121 828 4043 E: hello@tylergrange.co.uk W: tylergrange.co.uk



Legend

Boundaries

Redline Boundary

Transect Route

BOCC Code

Red
Amber
Green

B. - Blackbird
BC - Blackcap
BT - Blue Tit
BZ - Buzzard
C. - Carrion Crow
CC - Chiffchaff
D. - Dunnock
GB - Greater Black-backed Gull
GC - Goldcrest
GO - Goldfinch
GT - Great Tit
HS - House Sparrow
JD - Jackdaw
LB - Lesser Black-Backed Gull
LT - Long Tailed Tit
MA - Mallard
MG - Magpie
NH - Nuthatch
PE - Peregrine
PW - Pied wagtail
R. - Robin
S. - Skylark
SG - Starling
ST - Song Thrush
TC - Treecreeper
WP - Wood Pigeon
WR - Wren

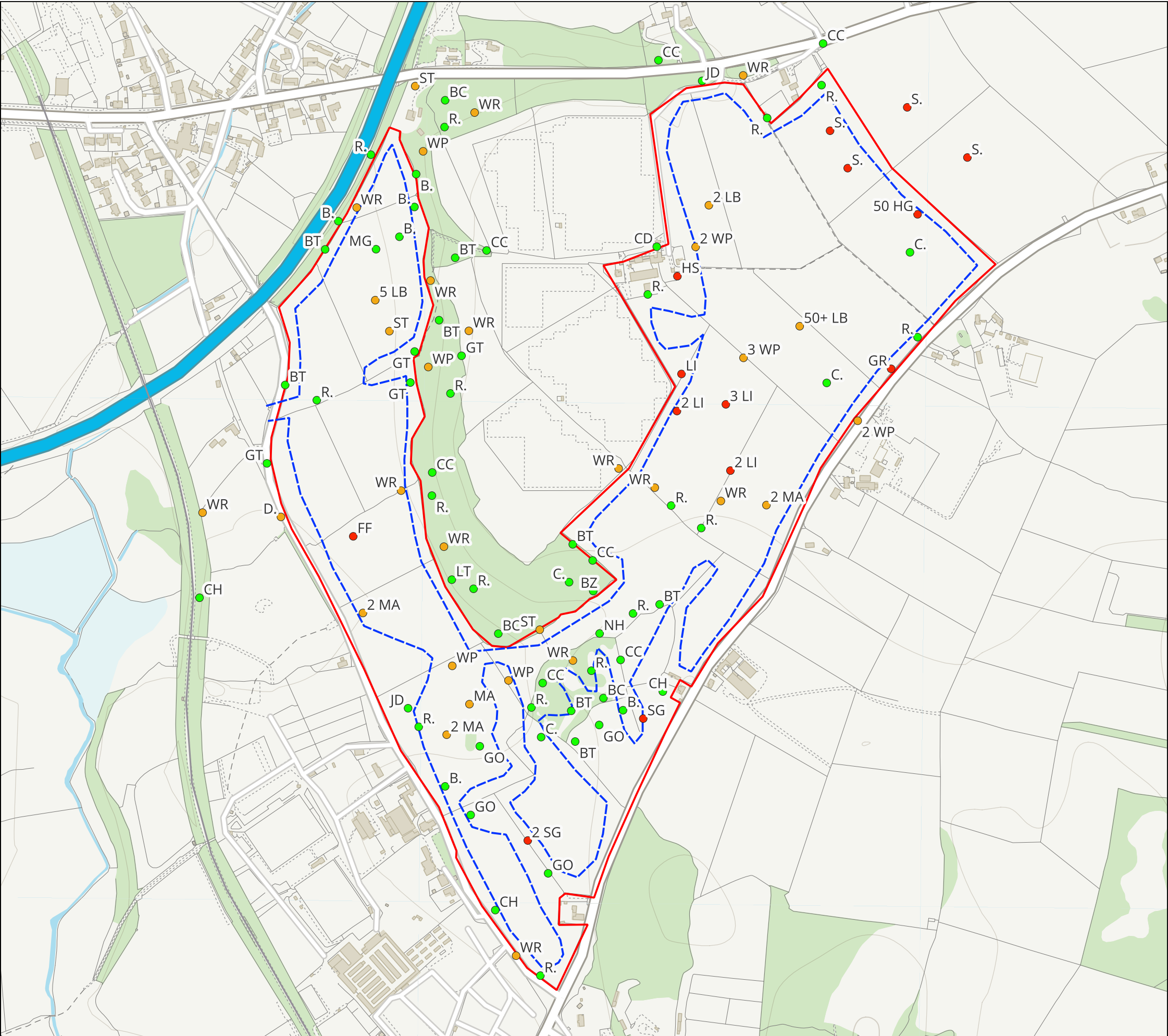
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Project	Land East of Crick Road
Drawing Title	March Breeding Bird Survey Plan
Scale	As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No.	16528/P06
Date	May 2024
Checked	JH/RC



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Legend

Boundaries

Redline Boundary

Transect Route

BOCC Code

Red

Amber

Green

B. - Blackbird
BC - Blackcap
BT - Blue Tit
BZ - Buzzard
C. - Carrion Crow
CC - Chiffchaff
CD - Collared Dove
CH - Chaffinch
D. - Dunnock
FF - Fieldfare
GB - Greater Black-backed Gull
GO - Goldfinch
GR - Greenfinch
GT - Great Tit
HG - Herring Gull
HS - House Sparrow
JD - Jackdaw
LB - Lesser Black-Backed Gull
LI - Linnet
LT - Long Tailed Tit
MA - Mallard
MG - Magpie
NH - Nuthatch
R. - Robin
S. - Skylark
SG - Starling
ST - Song Thrush
TC - Treecreeper
WP - Wood Pigeon
WR - Wren

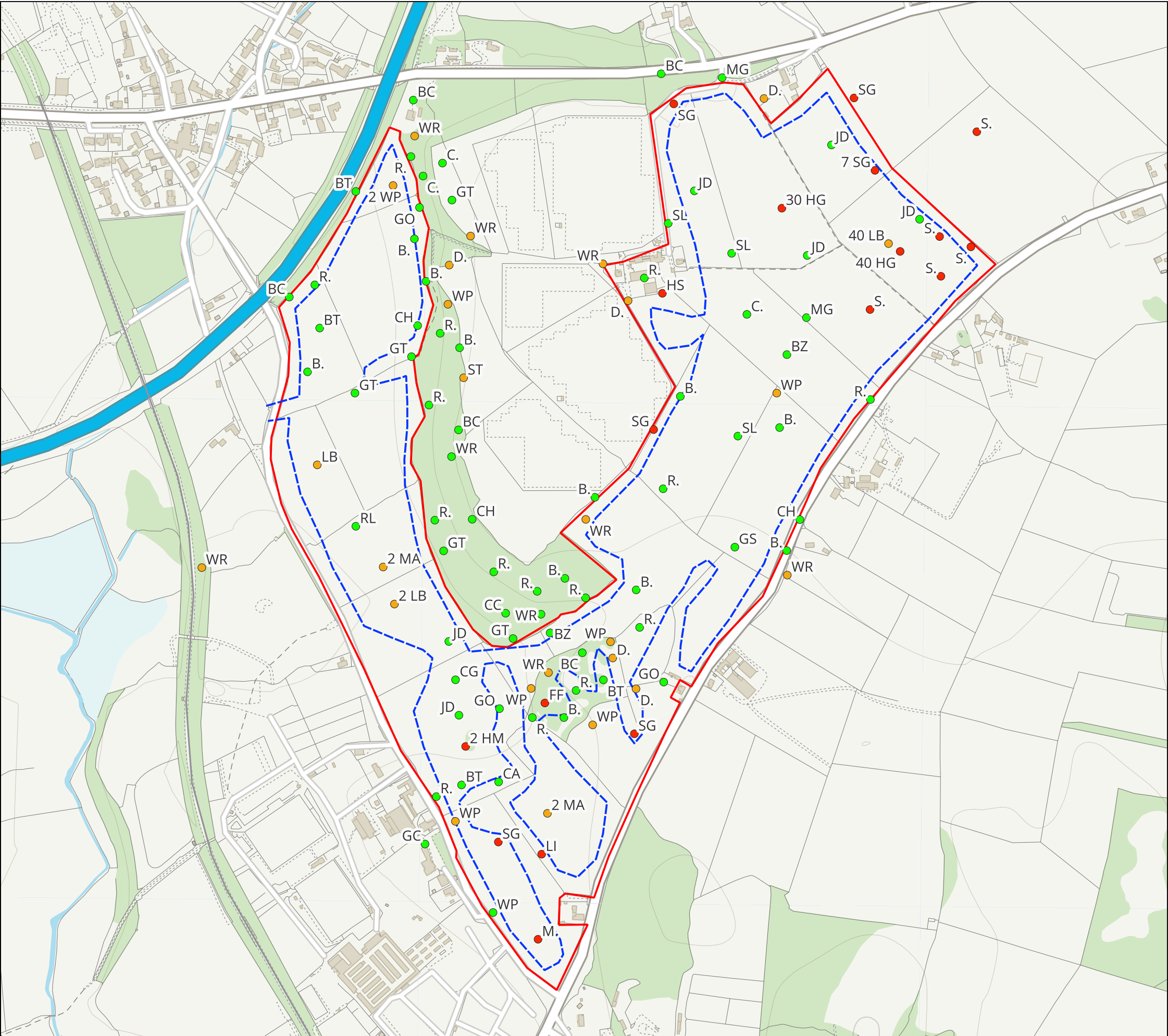
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Project	Land East of Crick Road
Drawing Title	April Breeding Bird Survey Plan
Scale	As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No.	16528/P07
Date	May 2024
Checked	JH/RC



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Legend

Boundaries

Redline Boundary

Transect Route

BOCC Code

Red

Amber

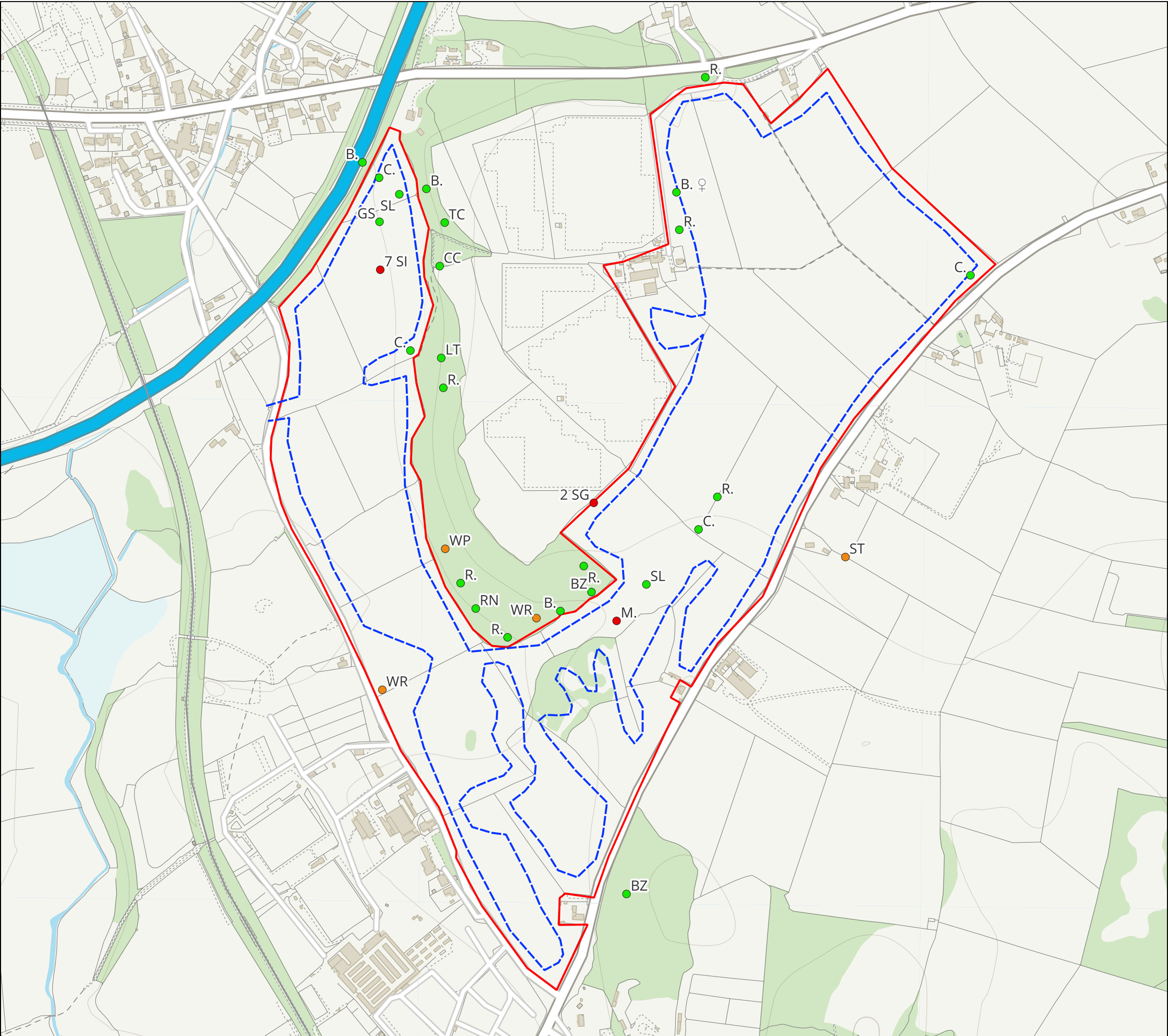
Green

B. - Blackbird
BC - Blackcap
BT - Blue Tit
BZ - Buzzard
C. - Carrion Crow
CA - Cormorant
CC - Chiffchaff
CG - Canada Goose
CH - Chaffinch
D. - Dunnock
FF - Fieldfare
GC - Goldcrest
GO - Goldfinch
GS - Great Spotted Woodpecker
GT - Great Tit
HG - Herring Gull
HM - House Martin
HS - House Sparrow
JD - Jackdaw
LB - Lesser Black-Backed Gull
LI - Linnet
M. - Mistle Thrush
MA - Mallard
MG - Magpie
R. - Robin
RL - Red-legged Partridge
S. - Skylark
SG - Starling
SL - Swallow
ST - Song Thrush
WP - Wood Pigeon
WR - Wren

Project Land East of Crick Road
Drawing Title May Breeding Bird Survey Plan
Scale As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No. 16528/P08
Date May 2024
Checked JH/RC



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Legend

Redline Boundary

Transect Route

BOCC Code

Amber

Red

Not listed

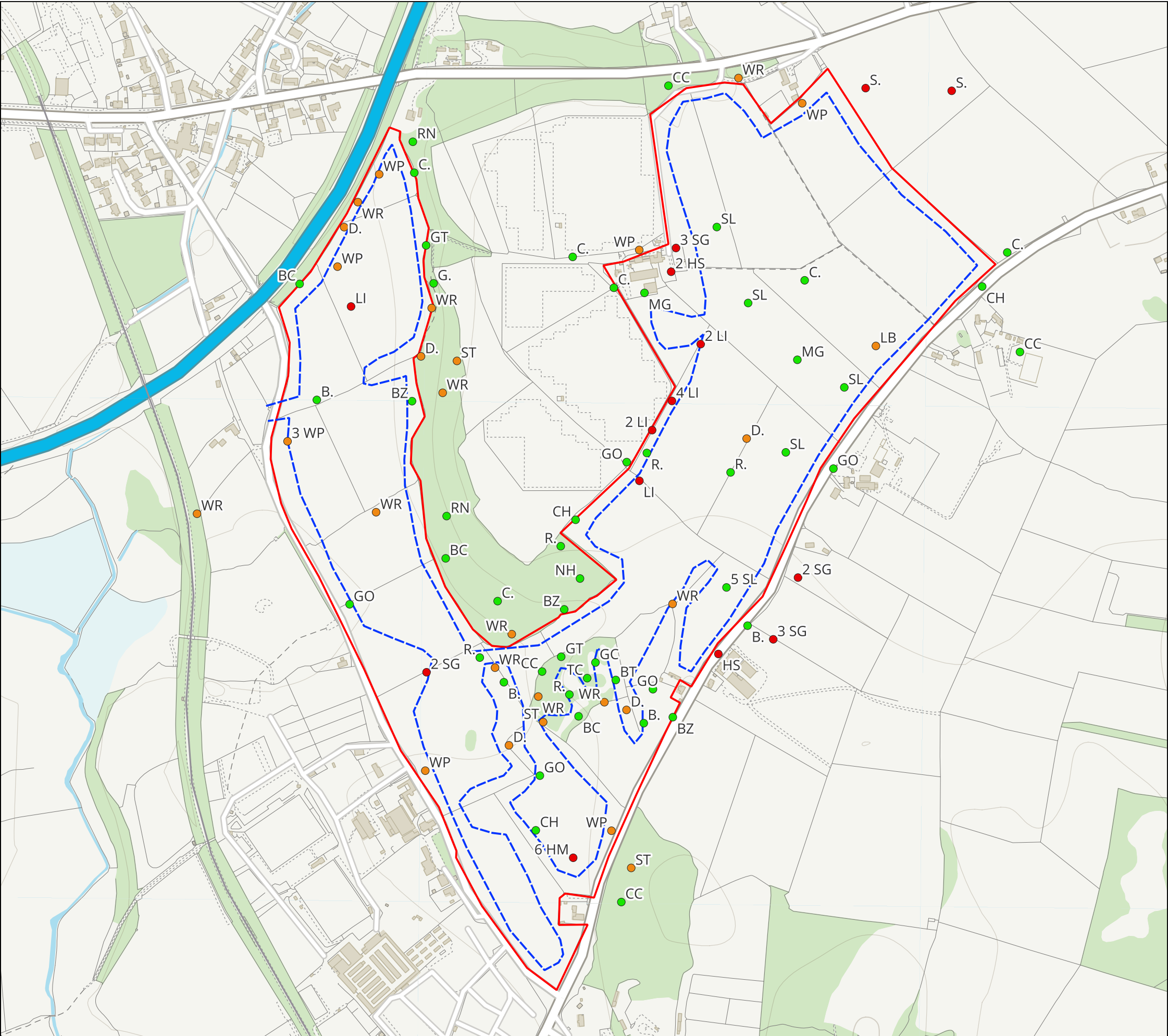
- B. - Blackbird
BZ - Buzzard
C. - Carrion Crow
CC - Chiffchaff
G. - Green Woodpecker
GS - Greater Spotted Woodpecker
LT- Long-tailed Tit
M. - Mistle Thrush
R. - Robin
RN - Raven
SG - Starling
SI - Swift
SL - Swallow
ST - Song Thrush
TC - Trecreeper
WP - Wood Pigeon
WR - Wren

0 0.1 0.2 km

Project	Land East of Crick Road
Drawing Title	Breeding Bird Survey Visit 4 June
Scale	As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No.	16528/P09
Date	June 6th 2024
Checked	JH/RC



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Legend

Redline Boundary

Transect Route

BOCC Code

Amber

Red

Not listed

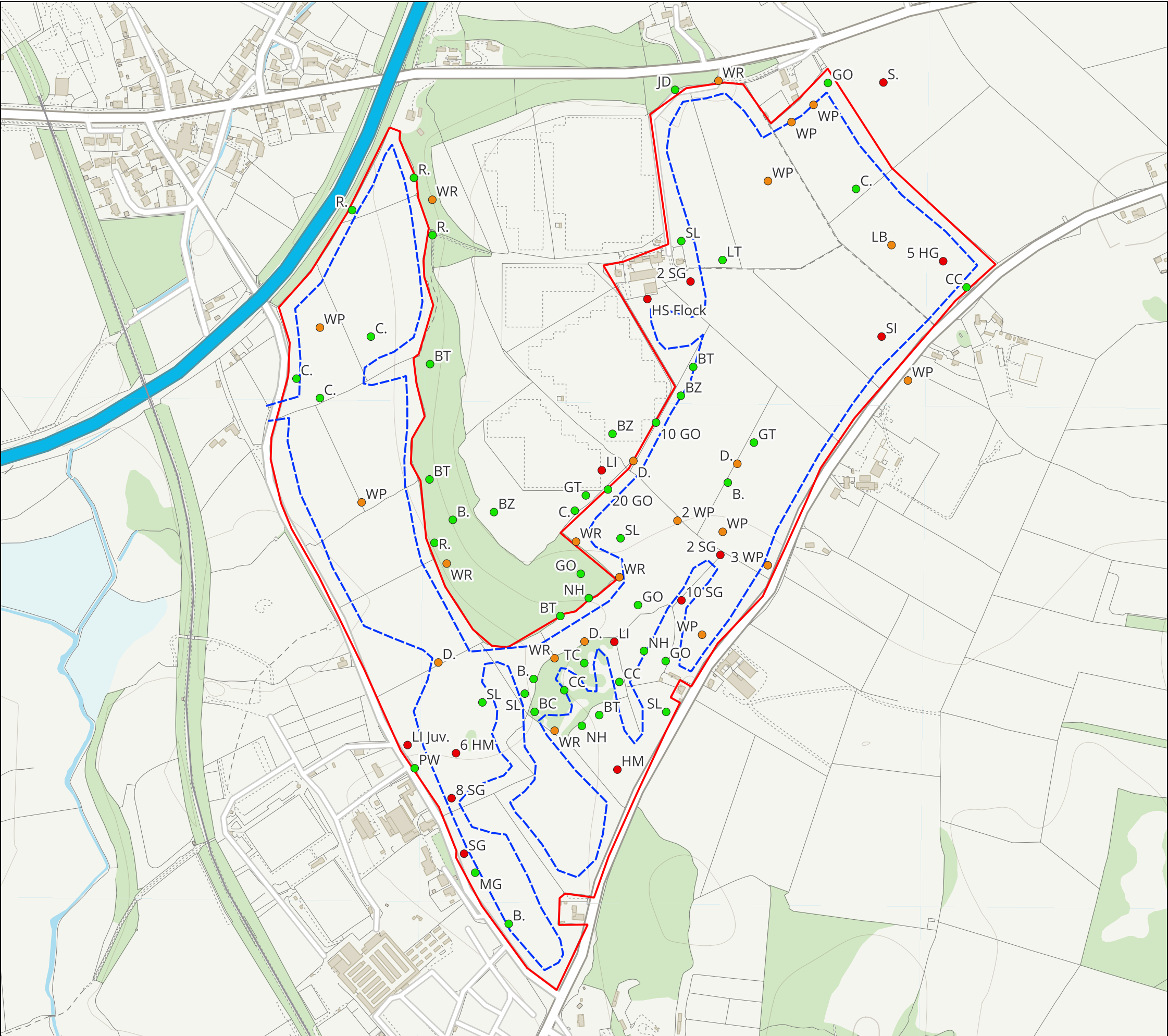
- B. - Blackbird
BC - Blackcap
BT - Blue Tit
BZ - Buzzard
C. - Carrion Crow
CH - Chaffinch
D. - Dunnock
G. - Green Woodpecker
GC - Goldcrest
GT - Great Tit
HM - House Martin
HS - House Sparrow
LB - Lesser Black-backed Gull
LI - Linnet
MG - Magpie
NH - Nuthatch
R. - Robin
RN - Raven
S. - Skylark
SG - Starling
SL - Swallow
ST - Song Thrush
TC - Treecreeper
WP - Wood Pigeon
WR - Wren

0 0.1 0.2 km

Project	Land East of Crick Road
Drawing Title	Breeding Bird Survey Visit 5 June 20th
Scale	As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No.	16528/P10
Date	June 20th 2024
Checked	JH/RC



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Legend

Redline Boundary

Transect Route

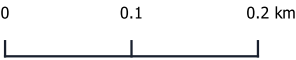
BOCC Code

Amber

Red

Not listed

- B. - Blackbird
BC - Blackcap
BT - Blue Tit
BZ - Buzzard
C. - Carrion Crow
CC - Chiffchaff
D. - Dunnock
GO - Goldfinch
GT - Great Tit
HG - Herring Gull
HM - House Martin
HS - House Sparrow
LB - Lesser Black-backed Gull
LI - Linnet
MG - Magpie
NH - Nuthatch
PW - Pied Wagtail
R. - Robin
S. - Skylark
SG - Starling
SI - Swift
SL - Swallow
TC - Treecreeper
WP - Wood Pigeon
WR - Wren



Project	Land East of Crick Road
Drawing Title	Breeding Bird Survey Visit 6 July
Scale	As Shown (Approximate)
Drawing No.	16528/P11
Date	July 11th 2024
Checked	JH/RC



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