

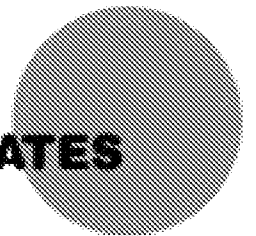
Winter Bird Surveys

Oldlands Farm,
Shripney Road,
Bognor Regis,
West Sussex

March 2014

TMA ref: 140134-ED-02a

TIM M●YA ASSOCIATES



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Project	Oldlands Farm Bognor Regis
Report Type	Winter Bird Surveys
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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report gives details of wintering bird surveys undertaken at the Oldlands Farm site in February/March 2014. The surveys were undertaken to assess the use of the site by wintering birds, particularly those species for which the nearby European Protected Sites have been designated.

During both survey visits, no species of bird were recorded for which the nearby European Protected Sites have been designated. Although the surveys were undertaken at the end of the winter season, the results indicate that the proposed development at this site would not impact the bird populations of the Protected Sites. Therefore it is considered that further Appropriate Assessment of the development is unnecessary with regard to wintering birds.

1 INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report gives details of the methodology and results of winter bird surveys undertaken at the site known as Oldlands Farm. The aim of the surveys is to indicate whether the site is used by important populations of wintering birds for which the nearby European Protected Sites are designated and whether the proposed development may impact such bird populations. This report is intended to inform Habitat Regulations Screening of the proposed development. The results will indicate whether a full Appropriate Assessment is likely to be required to formally assess the impact on the Protected Sites.

Background

- 1.2 This report has been commissioned by Bericote Properties Ltd. The proposed scope of development involves use of the site for business-related development, including two warehouses and related parking areas.

Site description

Oldlands Farm

- 1.3 The site is located to the north of Bognor Regis and directly to the east of Shripney Road, the A29. The Oldlands Farm site occupies approximately 12.5 hectares, dominated by two arable agricultural fields divided by a largely dry ditch running north-south. Neighbouring land uses include a railway track and disused airfield to the east, an industrial estate to the south and open space and farmland in all other directions. The village of Shripney is located approximately 300 m to the north.

2 EUROPEAN PROTECTED SITES

- 2.1 Two European Protected Sites, designated under the EC Wild Birds Directive 1979 and Habitats Regulations 2010 (as amended) have been identified within 10 km of the study site, as follows:
- Pagham Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, 6.5 km from study site;
 - Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA and Ramsar site, 9.8 km from study site;
- 2.2 The bird species populations for which each European Protected Site is designated are listed in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The Habitats Regulations require that any proposed plans, projects or activities which may affect a SPA and require a consent or permission of some kind from a public body must be subject to special scrutiny and first require a detailed 'appropriate assessment'.
- 2.4 The arable land within the Oldlands Farm site has potential to be used by overwintering birds such as waders, wildfowl or geese, some of which may form part of important populations of birds for which the nearby European Protected Sites are protected. An impact on the populations of birds for which the Protected Sites are designated could constitute a breach of the Habitats Regulations.

3 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The surveys were undertaken by Simon Thomas and Mark Doherty, both experienced ornithological surveyors. The surveys were undertaken on 19th February and 3rd March 2014.
- 3.2 Whilst the surveys are limited to two visits and the dates do not cover the full wintering bird season, they are considered sufficient to give an indication as to the broad levels of use of the site by overwintering birds.
- 3.3 The following methodology is based on the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Core Count methodology (Gilbert et al.,1998) but is tailored for the study site and requirements of this assessment.
- Surveys were undertaken using a walkover methodology with frequent inspections from appropriate vantage points to survey the presence of birds within the site. The site was viewed using binoculars (8 x magnification).
 - Surveys were undertaken spanning high tide (at Chichester Harbour) – the time when wintering birds were considered most likely to occupy the study site.
 - All birds within the site boundaries were recorded using standard BTO codes for species and behaviour. Birds passing over the site were only noted if they were of species 'listed' for the European Protected Site designations (see Appendix 1). Although all species of bird were noted, this report does not detail the presence or behaviour of common or widespread species.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Notable bird species recorded during the surveys are shown in Appendix 2.

Timing and weather

Date	High tide	Survey start	Survey end	Temperature (°C)	Wind (Beaufort)	Precipitation	Cloud (out of 8)
19/02/14*	14:11	12:45	14:40	10	2	Brief shower during survey	7
03/03/14	12:54	11:35	13:40	8	1	Light showers	5

* 19/02/14 Extensive flooding in wider landscape during previous weeks although rain had eased during days preceding survey.

Oldlands Farm

19th February 2014

4.2 None of the 'listed' bird species were recorded within the Oldlands Farm site on this survey date.

4.3 Other notable species recorded were a large mixed flock of starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) (approx. 200 of each species), roosting in the tree and hedgerow within the northern corner of the Oldlands Farm site. A flock of forty twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*) were recorded in the same location. Two skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*) were displaying over the Oldlands Farm site, with another displaying just outside the site. A pair of mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were present close to a field boundary in the middle of the site.

3rd March 2014

4.4 None of the 'listed' bird species were recorded within the Oldlands Farm site on this survey date.

4.5 Other notable species recorded were three skylarks displaying, corresponding closely to the territories observed on 19th February. Two grey partridges (*Perdix*

perdix) were recorded on the western boundary of the Oldlands Farm site. Nine twite were recorded in the northern corner of the Oldlands Farm site. A pair of mallards were again present in the middle of the site. Six fieldfare were recorded in the northern part of the site.

5 CONCLUSIONS

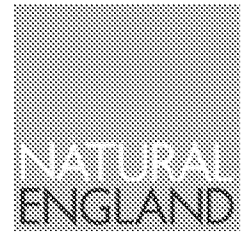
- 5.1 During the two survey visits, the site was not used by species for which the nearby European Protected Sites are designated. Although the two surveys were undertaken towards the end of the winter bird season, the results have indicated that the site is not likely to support any of the 'listed' species of bird in significant numbers. Therefore the proposed development of the site would not have an impact on the nearby European Protected Sites. Furthermore, it is considered that full Appropriate Assessment of the proposed development at these sites is unnecessary with regard to wintering birds.

6 REFERENCES

- Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D.W. & Evans, J. (1998). Bird Monitoring Methods. RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

Appendix 1

European Protected Site Citations



European Site Conservation Objectives for Pagham Harbour Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9012041

With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Qualifying Features:

- A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)
- A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Non-breeding)
- A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
- A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

Additional Qualifying Features Identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review:

- A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)

This is a European Marine Site

This site is a part of the Pagham Harbour European Marine Site. These conservation objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice Package, for further details please contact Natural England's enquiry service at enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk, or by phone on 0845 600 3078, or visit the Natural England website at:

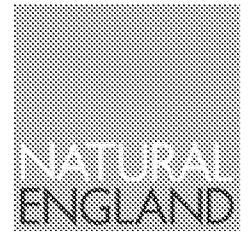
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx>

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

European Site Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or competent authority is required to make an Appropriate Assessment under the relevant parts of the respective legislation.

These conservation objectives are set for each bird feature for a Special Protection Area (SPA). Where the objectives are met, the site can be said to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and the site itself makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive for those features. On the first page of this document there may be a list of 'Additional Qualifying Features identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review'. These are additional features identified by the UK SPA Review published in 2001 and, although not yet legally classified, are as a matter of Government policy treated in the same way as classified features.

This document is also intended for those who are preparing information to be used for an appropriate assessment by either the appropriate nature conservation body or a competent authority. As such this document cannot be definitive in how the impacts of a project can be determined. Links to selected sources of information, data and guidance which may be helpful can be found on Natural England's website. This list is far from exhaustive.



**European Site Conservation Objectives for
Chichester and Langstone Harbours Special Protection Area
Site Code: UK9011011**

With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Qualifying Features:

- A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)
A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)
A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)
A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)
A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)
A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)
A069 *Mergus serrator*; Red-breasted merganser (Non-breeding)
A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)
A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)
A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)
A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)
A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding)
A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding)
A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)
A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

Additional Qualifying Features Identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review:

- A026 *Egretta garzetta*; Little egret (Non-breeding)
A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

This is a European Marine Site

This site is a part of the Solent Maritime European Marine Site. These conservation objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice Package, for further details please contact Natural England's enquiry service at enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk, or by phone on 0845 600 3078, or visit the Natural England website at:

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Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

European Site Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the “Habitats Regulations”) and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or competent authority is required to make an Appropriate Assessment under the relevant parts of the respective legislation.

These conservation objectives are set for each bird feature for a Special Protection Area (SPA). Where the objectives are met, the site can be said to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and the site itself makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive for those features. On the first page of this document there may be a list of 'Additional Qualifying Features identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review'. These are additional features identified by the UK SPA Review published in 2001 and, although not yet legally classified, are as a matter of Government policy treated in the same way as classified features.

This document is also intended for those who are preparing information to be used for an appropriate assessment by either the appropriate nature conservation body or a competent authority. As such this document cannot be definitive in how the impacts of a project can be determined. Links to selected sources of information, data and guidance which may be helpful can be found on Natural England's website. This list is far from exhaustive.

Appendix 2

Winter bird survey notes

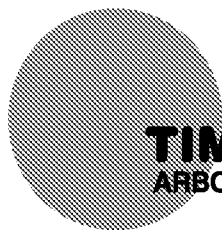
Winter Bird Survey



Key:

- Green - 03/03/14
- Blue - 19/02/14
- ET - Little Egret
- FF - Fieldfare
- HG - Herring Gull
- MA - Mallard
- P - Grey Partridge
- S - Skylark
- SG - Starling
- TW - Twite

- ✿ Habitat Surveys (Extended Phase 1/ Walkover/ Botanical)
- ✿ Protected Species Surveys
- ✿ Ecological Mitigation & Licencing
- ✿ BREEAM & CFSH
- ✿ Ecological Management Plans
- ✿ Hedgerow Surveys
- ✿ Landscape Analysis
- ✿ Arboricultural & Ecological Reports for Planning
- ✿ Feasibility Tree Surveys
- ✿ British Standard 5837 Tree Surveys
- ✿ Tree Constraints Reports & Drawings
- ✿ Appeal Statements & Proofs
- ✿ Expert Witness
- ✿ Evidence at Hearings & Public Inquiries
- ✿ Method Statements to Satisfy Planning Conditions
- ✿ Design Solutions
- ✿ Landscape Plans
- ✿ Tender Documents & Drawings
- ✿ Supervision & Inspection of Works
- ✿ Contract & Project Management
- ✿ Health & Safety Surveys
- ✿ GPS Surveys
- ✿ Computerised Tree Population Surveys
- ✿ CAD Plans & Consultancy
- ✿ Subsidence Risk Assessments
- ✿ Mortgage & Insurance Reports
- ✿ TPO Review
- ✿ Local Government Officer Contracts



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