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Appendix D: Wintering Bird Survey Report

Client

Hallam Land Management Limited

Project

Land south of Longsight Road,

Langho

Date

October 2025

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Rev	Issue Status	Prepared/Date	Approved/Date
-	Final	GMP/ 08.10.25	ET / 08.10.26

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following Wintering Bird Report has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd on behalf of the Hallam Land Management as an appendix to the Ecological Impact Assessment of Land south of Longsight Road, Langho (Central OS Grid Ref: SD 702 344), which is herein referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.2 This report has been prepared to support an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) for the proposals. This report should therefore be read in conjunction with this EclA report (FPCR, 2025).

Site Context

- 1.3 The Site is approximately 20 hectares (ha) in extent and supports mostly grassland habitats. Primarily other neutral grassland, with a central area of lowland meadow priority grassland and a modified grassland field to the west. Two streams and a number of waterbodies were recorded on Site. In the north east corner is an area of Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, with two further areas, lesser in extent occurring along the central stream and also on the western boundary.

Site Proposals

- 1.4 It is proposed that the Site will be utilised for a residential scheme as illustrated on the Illustrative Masterplan (Drawing number 0101). Approximately half of the Site area is proposed as Public Open Space (10.84ha).

Report Aims and Objectives

- 1.5 This report has been prepared to achieve the following objectives:
- Describe the survey methodologies employed to inform this assessment;
 - Identify the presence, species and distribution of wintering birds within or in the vicinity of the Site;
 - Evaluate the conservation importance of habitats within the Site to local bird populations and identify any areas of ornithological interest;
 - Identify and describe potentially significant ecological effects associated with the proposals on wintering birds; and
 - Make recommendations to minimize the potential impact of development and to consider opportunities for additional mitigation, compensation and enhancement where relevant.

2.0 LEGISLATION AND STATUS

Legislation

- 2.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) is the principal legislation affording protection to UK wild birds. Under this legislation all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law, and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to recklessly or intentionally:
- Kill, injure or take any wild bird;
 - Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while in use or being built; or
 - Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- 2.2 Additional protection is afforded to species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, whereby intentional disturbance whilst building or occupying a nest or disturbance of dependent young is considered an offence.
- 2.3 Certain species have also been identified as species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 (NERC S41). The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.
- 2.4 The local biodiversity action plan (BAP) for Lancashire includes action plans for certain species within the county. Specific species plans include hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*, black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* and lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*.

Status

- 2.5 In addition to statutory protection, some bird species are classified according to their conservation status, such as their inclusion on the Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) in the UK¹.
- 2.6 Red list (high conservation concern) meet at least one of the following criteria:
- They are globally threatened according to IUCN criteria;
 - Their population has declined rapidly (50% or more) in recent years; and/or
 - That they have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.
- 2.7 Amber list (medium conservation concern) species are those that meet at least one of the following criteria:
- They have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe;
 - Their population or range has declined moderately (between 25% and 49%) in recent years;
 - Their population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery;
 - They are rare breeders; and

¹ Stanbury, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I. (2021) The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *British Birds* 114: 723-747.

- They have internationally important or localised populations.

2.8 Green list (low conservation concern) species fulfil none of the above criteria.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Desktop Study

- 3.1 In order to compile existing baseline ornithological information, statutory and non-statutory organisations were consulted for data regarding designated sites for which birds are a designating feature and protected/notable bird records. These included the Lancashire Environment Record Network (LERN), and the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) maps.
- 3.2 Details on the methodology for the desk study are provided in the accompanying EclA report.

Field Survey

Diurnal Survey

- 3.3 The methodology employed was broadly based on the non-breeding survey methodology as per the bird survey guidelines². Standard BTO species codes and symbols for bird activities were used to identify birds and denote activity, sex and age where appropriate.
- 3.4 The route around the survey area was mapped out prior to the surveys being undertaken, paying particular attention to linear features, such as hedgerows and tree lines, and natural features such as ponds and areas of scrub. When arriving on-site, any notable birds present were initially observed at a distance from a viewpoint. This process was repeated at several viewpoints around the Site, as required. The route was therefore adapted so that any birds present could be carefully followed, with a suitable distance maintained at all times to minimise any risk of the surveyor altering bird behaviour. Information was recorded on bird behaviour, paying particular attention to any behavioural changes and their potential cause.
- 3.5 Surveys were conducted between November and February (inclusive) in 2024/2025. To provide a robust level of accuracy for determining the population status of wintering birds in the survey area, a total of four surveys have been undertaken monthly, to cover the over-wintering period.
- 3.6 Bird surveys were not conducted in unfavourable conditions such as heavy rain or strong wind, (conditions which can negatively affect the results). Table 1 provides details of the survey dates and weather conditions for each survey period.

Survey Timing

- 3.7 Surveys were programmed at times which maximised visibility to allow for increased visual identification of birds, as such there was no specific time of day targeted.

Table 1: Wintering Bird Survey Dates and Conditions

Survey	Date	Cloud Cover (%)	Rain	Wind (Beaufort)	Visibility
1	06.11.24	90	Dry	1 – Light Air	Good
2	03.12.24	80	Dry	1 – Light Air	Good
3	08.01.25	90	Dry	1 – Light Air	Good
4	05.02.25	85	Dry	2 – Gentle Breeze	Very Good

² Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2025). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org>

4.0 RESULTS

Desktop Study

4.1 The locations of designated Sites and notable bird species records identified through the desktop study search area has been presented in Figure 1 and Figure 3 of the EclA.

Designated Sites

4.2 No sites designated for their ornithological interest were identified within 10km of the Site. A full description of all designated sites within the search area is provided within the EclA report.

Protected and Notable Species

4.3 The data search returned a total of 18 bird species which appear on one or more of the following and are hereafter referred to as 'notable species':

- Schedule 1 of WCA;
- BoCC Red or Amber lists;
- Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006; and / or
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

4.4 No records of notable species were returned from within the Site boundary. 42 records of 18 notable species were returned within 2km of the Site boundary.

Field Survey

4.5 A total of 41 bird species were recorded within the survey area (for complete list see Appendix D-1). Of these, 19 are considered 'notable species':

4.6 Herring gull *Larus argentatus* (Red List/NERC S.41) and Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (Amber List/Lancashire BAP) were recorded overflying the Site on one occasion only and therefore were not considered to be utilising the Site. As such these are not considered likely to be impacted by the proposed development as they do not interact with the habitats present.

4.7 The notable species recorded during surveys are summarised in Table 2 showing the peak count of individuals of each notable species that was recorded along with their recent status in Lancashire. Their respective distributions are illustrated in Figures D-1 to D-4.

Table 2: Notable Bird Species Recorded onsite.

Species	Legal / Conservation Status	Peak Count / No. of Survey Visits	Recent Status in Lancashire
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber list	2/1	Very common and widespread winter visitor and breeding resident.
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber list	2/3	Common breeding resident.
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber list	23/4	Abundant breeding resident.
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber list Lancashire BAP	1/2	Locally abundant breeding bird. Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

Species	Legal / Conservation Status	Peak Count / No. of Survey Visits	Recent Status in Lancashire
Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>	Red list	1/1	Very common winter visitor and passage migrant.
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber list	1/1	Fairly common breeding resident. Uncommon passage migrant.
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber list	1/1	Fairly common breeding resident.
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber list	30/4	Common resident.
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber list	5/4	Abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List NERC S.41	90/4	Abundant breeding bird, double passage migrant and winter visitor.
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	2/4	Common breeding resident.
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red list	2/2	Common breeding resident.
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber List WCA Sch.1	22/2	Abundant double passage migrant and winter visitor.
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List NERC S.41	9/4	Abundant but decreasing resident.
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	7/3	Abundant breeding resident and uncommon double passage migrant.
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber List	2/2	Fairly common breeding bird, common passage migrant and winter visitor.
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber list	1/2	Common breeding bird, abundant passage migrant.
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	1/1	Common breeding resident.
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	3/4	Common but declining breeding resident.

Results Description

- 4.8 The grassland habitats which make up the majority of the Site were used by relatively small numbers of notable species as a foraging resource. The assemblage of birds recorded here included small numbers of stock dove, woodpigeon, black-headed gull, common gull, kestrel, rook, mistle thrush and redwing. On one occasion a larger flock of starlings was observed foraging in the grassland, with a peak count of 90 birds. The hedgerow and woodland blocks provided suitable foraging and sheltering habitat for the range of common and widespread generalist and woodland edge species recorded including sparrowhawk, wren, song thrush, house sparrow, dunnock, bullfinch and greenfinch. The streams running through the Site provided foraging habitat for mallard and grey wagtail.

- 4.9 Due to the majority of species recorded being common and widespread, and found in relatively low numbers, the wintering bird assemblage is considered to be important at a Site scale and are therefore scoped out of further assessment.

Appendix D-1: Wintering Bird Surveys Results Summary

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey				Conservation Status & Protection
		1	2	3	4	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				2	Amber List
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	1		1	2	Amber List
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	7	16	3	23	Amber List
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			1	3	Green List
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		3 (flyover)	1		Amber List Lancashire BAP
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		1			Red List
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		4 (flyover)			Red List NERC S.41
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		1 (flyover)			Amber List Lancashire BAP
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				1	Green List
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1		Amber List
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				1	Green List
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				1	Green List
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			1		Amber List
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1				Green List
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	5	8	5	10	Green List
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	8	11	7	9	Green List
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	30	1	9	2	Amber List
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	2	5	24	6	Green List

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey				Conservation Status & Protection
		1	2	3	4	
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	2	5			Green List
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	5	15	20	14	Green List
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1	9	7	8	Green List
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	5	10	10	3	Green List
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		1			Green List
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	4	5	5	3	Amber List
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	1	2	2	2	Green List
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	2	1	1	2	Green List
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	50	80	29	90	Red List NERC S.41
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	1	2	2	Amber List NERC S.41
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			2	2	Red List
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	4		22		Amber List WCA Sch.1
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	9	11	16	9	Green List
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	6	8	6	7	Green List
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	5	4	6	9	Red List NERC S.41
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2		2	7	Amber List NERC S.41
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		2		1	Amber List
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			1	1	Green List
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	1		1		Amber List

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey				Conservation Status & Protection
		1	2	3	4	
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		3	2	2	Green List
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	1				Amber List NERC S.41
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2	2	2	3	Red List
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	3	13	23	8	Green List
Total No. Species		25	26	29	29	

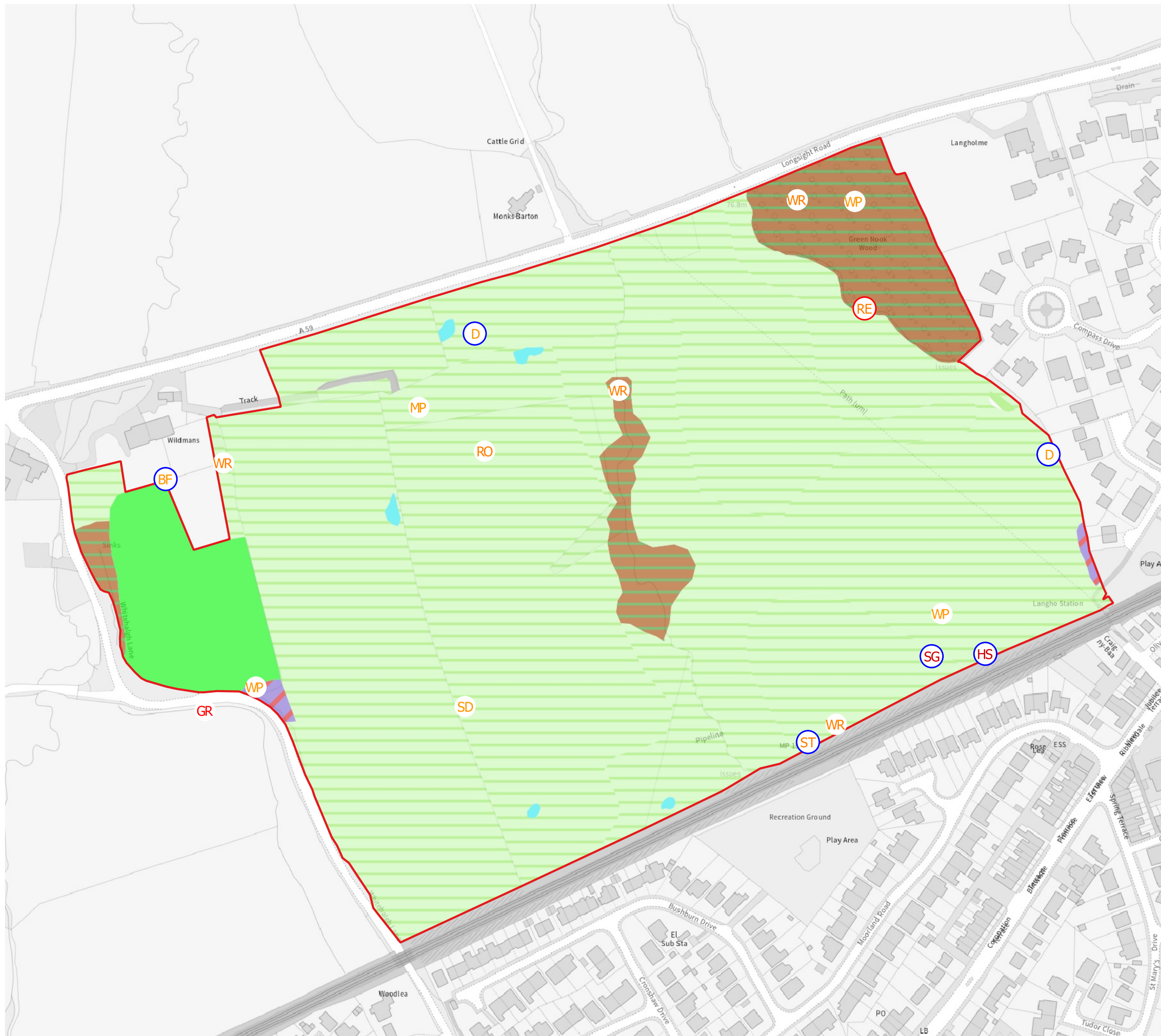
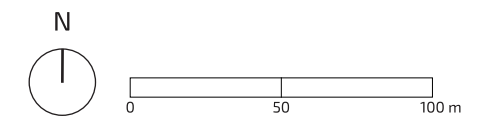
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Red line boundary

BoCC 5 Red List Species

HS House Sparrow

SG Starling

GR Greenfinch

BoCC 5 Amber List Species

BF Bullfinch

D Dunnock

MP Meadow Pipit

SD Stock Dove

RE Redwing

RO Rook

ST Song Thrush

WP Woodpigeon

WR Wren

Additional Protections

Blue circle: NERC Species of Principal Importance

Red circle: Schedule 1 Species

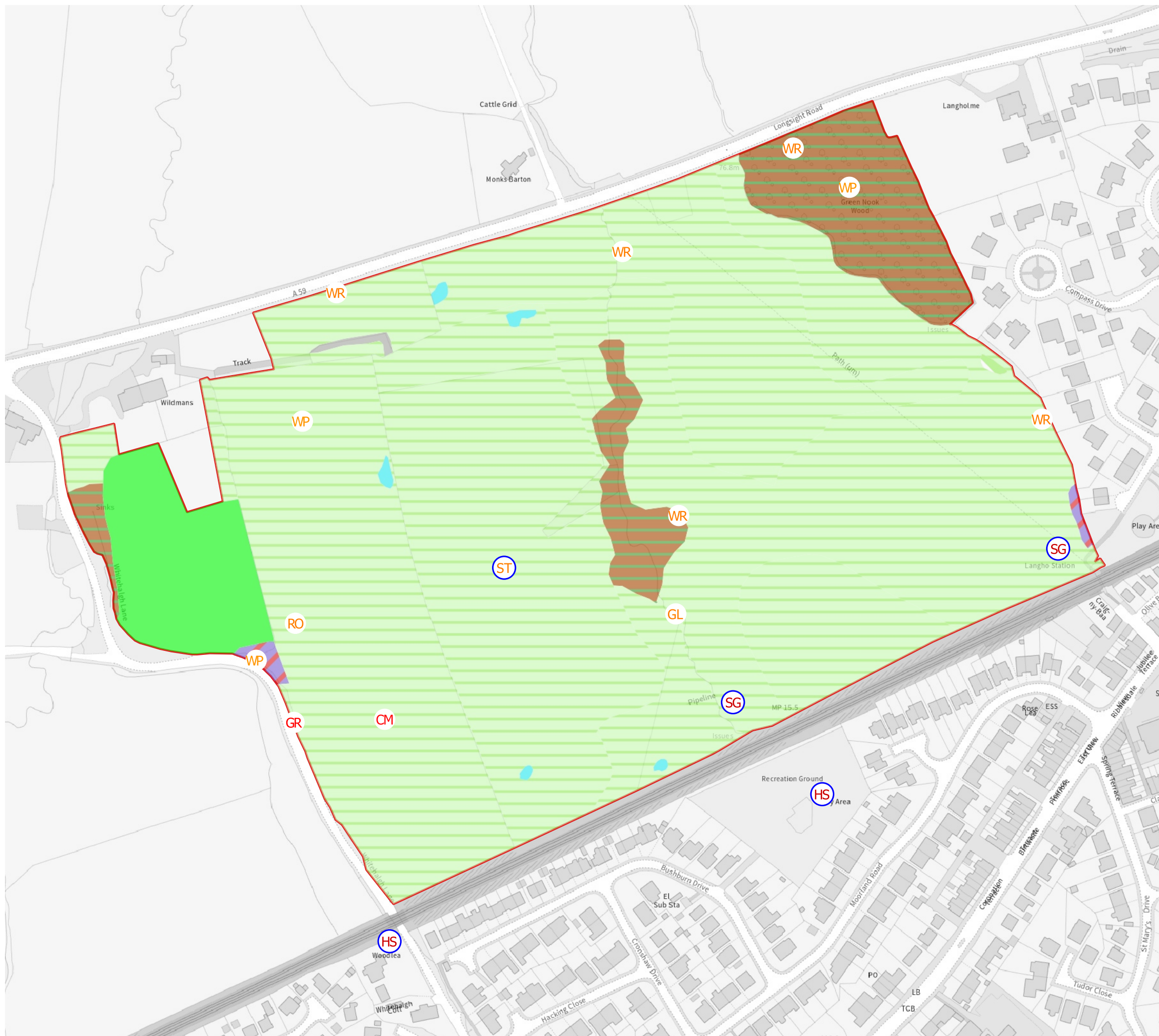
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drwn/chkd: GP / SH

client: Hallam Land Management

project: Land south of Longsight Road, Langholme

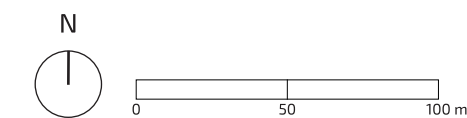
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Red line boundary

BoCC 5 Red List Species

CM Common Gull

HS House Sparrow

SG Starling

GR Greenfinch

BoCC 5 Amber List Species

GL Grey Wagtail

RO Rook

ST Song Thrush

WP Woodpigeon

WR Wren

Additional Protections

NERC Species of Principal Importance

date drwn/chkd

08/10/25 GP / SH

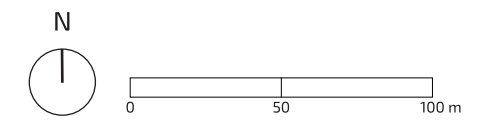
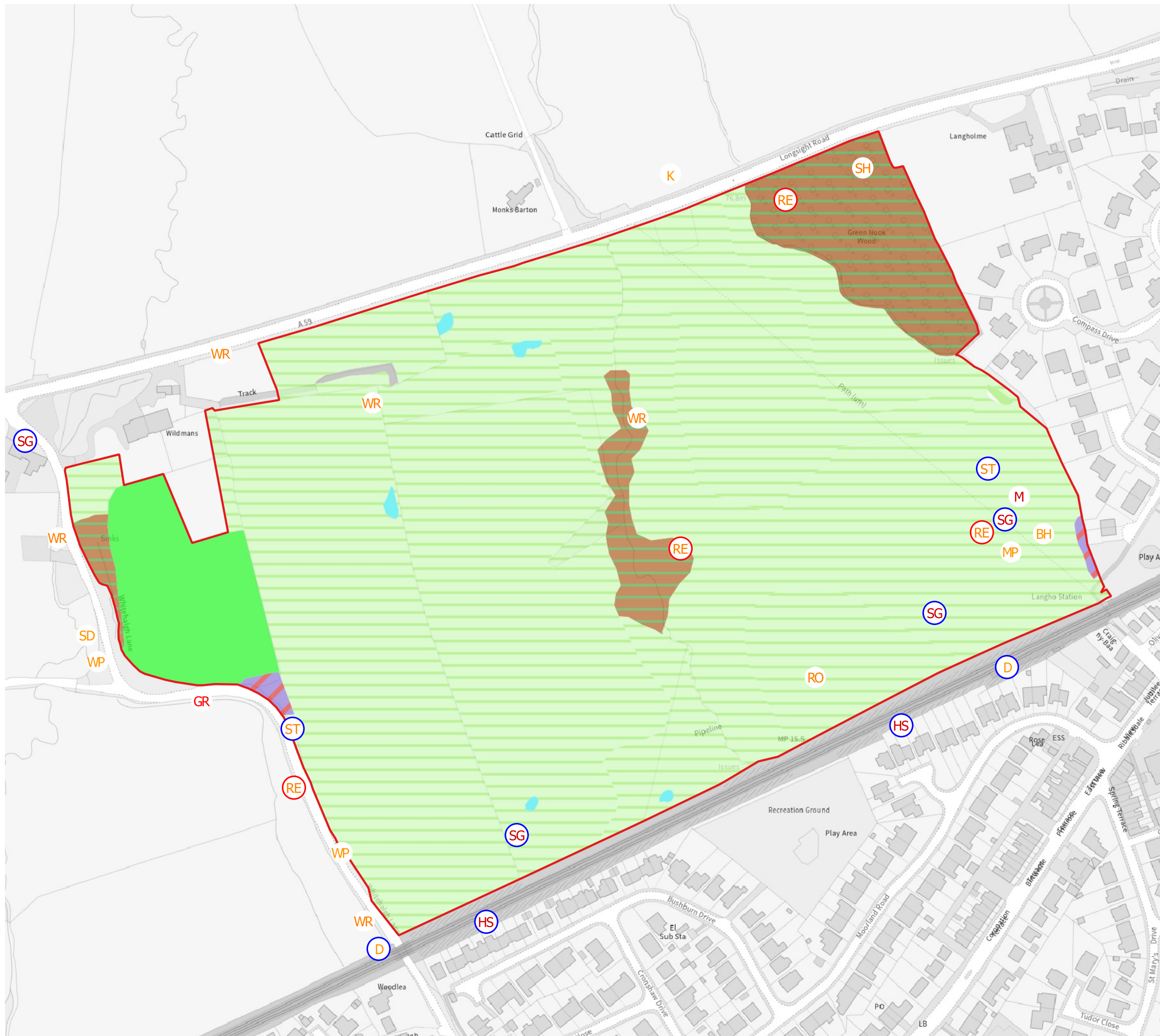
client
Hallam Land Management

project
**Land south of Longsight Road,
Langho**

title scale
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Notable Species - 03.12.24

number rev
FIGURE D-2 -

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Red line boundary

BoCC 5 Red List Species

HS House Sparrow

M Mistle Thrush

SG Starling

GR Greenfinch

BoCC 5 Amber List Species

BH Black-headed Gull

D Dunnock

K Kestrel

MP Meadow Pipit

SD Stock Dove

RE Redwing

RO Rook

ST Song Thrush

SH Sparrowhawk

WP Woodpigeon

WR Wren

Additional Protections

Blue circle: NERC Species of Principal Importance

Red circle: Schedule 1 Species

date: 08/10/25 drwn/chkd: GP / SH

client: **Hallam Land Management**

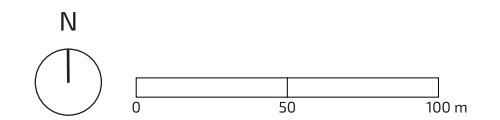
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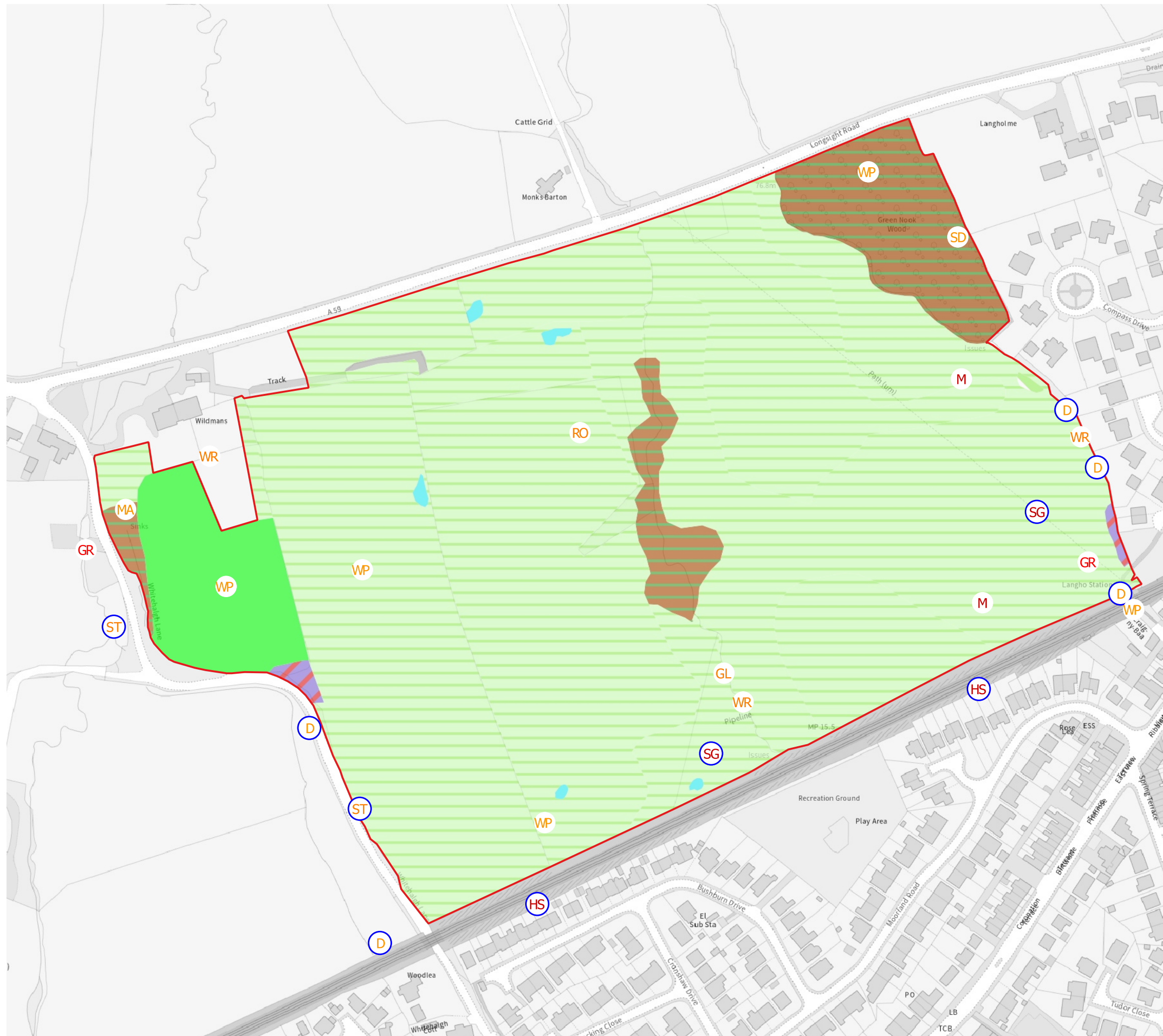
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- Red line boundary
- BoCC 5 Red List Species**
- HS** House Sparrow
- M** Mistle Thrush
- SG** Starling
- GR** Greenfinch
- BoCC 5 Amber List Species**
- D** Dunnock
- MA** Mallard
- SD** Stock Dove
- GL** Grey Wagtail
- RO** Rook
- ST** Song Thrush
- WP** Woodpigeon
- WR** Wren
- Additional Protections**
- NERC Species of Principal Importance



date 08/10/25 drwn/chkd GP / ET

client **Hallam Land Management**
 project **Land south of Longsight Road, Langho**

title **WBS Results Plan - Distribution of Notable Species - 05.02.25** scale 1:2,500 @ A3

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