



BIRDWATCH
NORTH EAST

Breeding Bird Survey Report

Wansbeck Restoration for Climate Change (WRCC)



(Curlew nest at Gallows Hill Farm, May 2024 - © Birdwatch North East)



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Commission

- 1.1.1 Birdwatch North East Ltd was commissioned by Groundwork in March 2024 to undertake a series of breeding bird surveys on pockets of land adjacent to the river Wansbeck, Northumberland. The purpose of the surveys was to inform landowners and stakeholders of the status of the avifauna utilising the land.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 What is defined here as “the site” actually comprises of several smaller sites situated around the river Wansbeck in Northumberland, the closest site lies around 10 km west of Morpeth. For the purposes of this report the various parcels of land and their site boundaries will be split up into smaller sites, the first is Middleton North at OS grid reference NZ 07355 84638 (hereafter referred to as “Middleton”), the second is Dene House Farm at OS grid reference NZ 01077 84034 (hereafter referred to as “Dene House”), the third is Ralphshield at OS grid reference NZ 01534 89107, the fourth is Fairnley Farm at OS grid reference NZ 00411 88526 (hereafter referred to as “Fairnley”), the fifth and sixth is Gallows Hill Farm, with one parcel of land to the south at OS grid reference NZ 02413 89084 (hereafter referred to as “Gallows Hill south”), and one parcel of land to the north at OS grid reference NZ 02073 90040 (hereafter referred to as “Gallows Hill north”).
- 1.2.2 The land is currently managed primarily for animal agriculture, with the land being utilised for sheep and cattle grazing. However, during the winter months stock is often rotated around the land, with the exception of cattle which are taken into sheds to prevent ground saturation. The wider project focus as undertaken by Groundwork aims to change the land use for each site boundary surveyed. There has been woodland and hedgerow restoration undertaken at both Middleton and Ralphshield. Grassland restoration at Gallows Hill Farm south. Restoration of a riparian corridor at Dene House, Fairnley, and part of Gallows Hill north, with additional peatland restoration at Gallows Hill north.

1.3 Survey Aims

- 1.3.1 The aim of the survey was to undertake a series of breeding bird surveys (hereafter BBS) to establish the diversity of avifauna within the various site boundaries and immediate surroundings. This data should allow for future comparison of changes in species diversity once restoration works take effect.

2 METHODOLOGIES

2.1 Field Survey

- 2.1.1 All visits were undertaken using a standard approach of Common Bird Census methodology (*Bibby et al. 2000*). The Common Bird Census (hereafter CBC) is a methodology used to map birds and their activities within a survey area, in this instance birds were mapped when they were within the predetermined site boundaries or seen from walked transects.
- 2.1.2 A series of four visits were made to each individual site during each month from April 2024 to July 2024. A transect route was chosen and walked at a slow ambling pace, with the utilisation of existing paths and walkways where possible. The route chosen was walked in reverse on alternate visits. Areas that could not be visited safely due to excessive vegetation or the presence of cattle were instead scanned from a distance.
- 2.1.3 Visits to Gallows Hill north during April, May, and June should be considered as an adapted version of the Brown and Shepherd methodology for censusing upland waders (*Brown et al. 1993*). During these surveys all parts of the site were approached to within 100 meters and all registrations with waders were recorded. It should be considered 'adapted' as there were three visits made as opposed to the recommended two and all registrations with all species were noted, not just with waders.
- 2.1.4 All contacts with birds were recorded whether by sight or sound, these were then plotted onto a QGIS field map using standardised BTO species codes (*Standard naming and coding of species and subspecies regularly found in Britain and Ireland (long list)*).
- 2.1.5 Upon completion of all surveys the registrations made were transferred onto a mapping system called QGIS. The registrations and their distribution over the surveys then allowed for assessment as to whether or not a species was nonbreeding, possibly, probably, or definitely breeding. During the analysis process standardised BTO Atlas guidance (*Breeding evidence, Bird Atlas*) was used, the categories are defined as follows:

Non-breeding:

- Flying over
- Species summering or on migration

Possible breeding:

- Species encountered in suitable nesting habitat
- A singing male (or calls associated with breeding behaviour) in suitable breeding habitat

Probable breeding:

- Pair observed in suitable breeding habitat
- Territorial behaviour (such as song) on at least two separate visits
- Courtship or display near suitable breeding habitat
- Visiting a probable nest site
- Anxiety (alarm) calls or agitated behaviour

- Nest building or excavation of a burrow

Confirmed breeding:

- Distraction display or feigning injury
- Used nest or egg shells located
- Recently fledged chicks or downy young observed
- Adults seen entering or leaving a nest site
- Adults seen carrying food or faecal sac
- Nest containing eggs
- Nest containing young

2.1.6 For the purpose of this report, all species that are considered to be either probable or confirmed breeding (based on BTO Atlas guidance) are marked down as territories. With non-breeding and possible breeding registrations considered as non-breeding for the purpose of this report.

2.2 Surveyors and Weather

2.2.1 All survey work was undertaken by Andrew Kinghorn of Birdwatch North East Ltd, an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (ACIEM), an experienced ornithologist with over 18 years of field experience and over six years of consultancy experience.

2.2.2 Details of weather conditions during each survey are represented below in *Table 2.1*:

Table 2.1: Survey weather conditions

Site	Date	Time	Temp . (°C)	Cloud cover (%)	Wind dir. and speed (mph)	Vis.	Precipitation
Ralphshield	18.04.2024	0630-0800	3	100	WSW10	>2km	Frost with semi hard ground.
Fairnley	18.04.2024	0800-0915	4	100	WSW11	>2km	
Middleton	23.04.2024	0615-0730	5	100	N12	>2km	
Dene House Farm	23.04.2024	0745-0845	6	100	N13	>2km	
Gallows Hill Farm	25.04.2024	0615-0945	4	100 then 20	N8 inc. 13	>2km	Hail shower from 0640 - 0710. Moved onto Gallows Hill north at 0730.
Fairnley	07.05.2024	0545-0715	10	100	NE5	>2km	
Ralphshield	07.05.2024	0715-0845	11	100	NE6	>2km	
Dene House Farm	10.05.2024	0540-0640	11	100	W4	>2km	
Middleton	10.05.2024	0655-0825	13	100	SW4	>2km	

Gallows Hill Farm	13.05.2024	0555-0955	10 inc. 15	30	SSE3	>2km	Moved onto Gallows Hill north at 0715.
Ralphshield	12.06.2024	0515-0630	8 inc. 9	100	W2	>2km	
Fairnley	12.06.2024	0630-0745	8 inc. 9	100	NW2	>2km	
Middleton	14.06.2024	0515-0640	12	90	S4	>2km	
Dene House Farm	14.06.2024	0655-0755	12	20	SW6	>2km	
Gallows Hill Farm	19.06.2024	0550-1000	10 inc. 12	90	NNE4	>2km	Moved onto Gallows Hill north at 0730.
Fairnley	01.07.2024	0520-0640	10	100	W9	>2km	
Ralphshield	01.07.2024	0640-0800	12	100	W12	>2km	
Dene House Farm	02.07.2024	0520-0620	11	100	W7	>2km	
Middleton	02.07.2024	0630-0745	13	100	W8	>2km	
Gallows Hill Farm	08.07.2024	0600-1000	8 inc. 15	0	W5	>2km	Moved onto Gallows Hill north at 0730.

2.3 Potential Limitations

- 2.3.1 The CBC methodology does recommend ten visits to a site, and more recent breeding bird survey guidance has revised this to six (*Breeding bird survey methodology, Bird Survey Guidelines*). The latter guidance goes on to comment that fewer survey visits can be justified for projects where there are very limited impacts and where habitats are of low value for birds. Given the nature of this project is restoration (opposed to commercial development) and that site is at the very beginning of its habitat restoration, it was decided that four visits to each individual site would be most appropriate. It allows for a fairer comparison of results made in 2023 where only two visits to each individual site could be made due to date of commission.
- 2.3.2 Areas that could not be accessed safely on a transect route were instead scanned carefully with binoculars from a sensible vantage point, this applied to the north-western section of Gallows Hill north during July's visit due to excessive rank vegetation.
- 2.3.3 High flying species that were not perceived to be interacting with the site in any meaningful way went unrecorded, as did any species perceived to be too distant from the site to be interacting with it.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Field Survey

- 3.1.1 A total of 79 species were recorded on walked transects, most registrations related to species within the site boundaries and immediate 50-meter buffer zone. A total of 43 were birds of conservation concern, sitting on either the red (15 species) or amber list (28 species). There was only one Schedule 1 species recorded and this was Green Sandpiper (*Wildlife and countryside act 1981*), this species was a passage wader and did not breed on the site or in the immediate vicinity. Full details of species recorded and a further discussion is given in *Table 3.1 to Table 3.12*.

3.2 Species recorded

- 3.2.1 The tables below (Tables 3.1 to 3.12) detail the entire list of bird species recorded from walked transect routes during all surveys at each site. The discussion column provides more context and discussion where appropriate. This is followed by a series of figures (Figures 1 to 6), these figures show territories based on the principles laid out in BTO Atlas guidance (*Breeding evidence, Bird Atlas*). A territory of a species is denoted by the presence of that species BTO code (*Standard naming and coding of species and subspecies regularly found in Britain and Ireland (long list). n.d.*). On many figures there are multiple territories of the same species (e.g. Wren). If a species BTO code does not appear within the figures, but was recorded at that site it will instead appear in the tables related to non-breeding. Species allocated to the non-breeding section does not necessarily mean they definitely did not breed, rather the threshold needed for allocation of a territory was not met (*Breeding evidence, Bird Atlas*). It should also be acknowledged that just because a species may not have been breeding, this does not mean that species was not either directly or indirectly benefitting from the habitat within the individual site boundaries and surrounding area.

3.3 Discussion

- 3.3.1 A total of 62 species were recorded during the breeding season of 2023 when survey work was carried out on the same parcels of land. Though there was a difference in survey effort, only two survey visits were made, with one in late June and another in early July, whereas in 2024 there were a total of four visits from April through to July in 2024. During this year's series of surveys, the total number of species recorded had increased to 79. The number of red list species recorded also increased between the two years, with 13 in 2023 increasing to 15 in 2024. As did the number of amber list species, with 23 recorded in 2023 increasing to 28 in 2024.
- 3.3.2 This project is in its early stages, the results show a good diversity of species across the sites surveys with a good number of both red, amber, and green listed species. With the habitat enhancements it is possible that both the number of territories and the diversity of species will increase.

Table 3.1: Breeding territories at Middleton.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Within site boundary, 50 metre-buffer, and walked transect route.		
			Min No. of Pairs	Max No. of Pairs	Discussion
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	4	4	Widespread in the wider area, a common bird.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green	1	1	Singing to the north of the site adjacent to the main road.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	3	3	Present primarily around the western end of the site boundary.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green	1	1	Bird present on two separate visits, likely breeding in the buffer to the east with the site itself forming part of the territory.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	2	3	Common on site and in the immediate buffer area.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	3	3	At least three territories identified, spread across the site and the buffer area.
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green	4	4	Present on the site and in the buffer zones, a common and widespread species during the spring and summer.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber	1	1	Family party in the buffer, seen using the site boundary for foraging opportunities and perching.
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red	1	1	Calling from the buffer zone.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red	1	1	Foraging in field in the buffer zone.
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green	1	1	Family party in the eastern buffer.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber	1	1	Utilising wet areas and the adjacent river courses, often seen in family parties.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	5	6	At least five territories considered, possibly more. The species makes use of the improved grassland over the southern edge of the site and the grazing areas adjacent to the site boundaries.
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Amber	1	1	Single territory.

Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber	3	3	A few territories on site, most registrations were of singing males of commuting birds.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	1	1	Single registrations.
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green	5	7	Birds holding territory over the site and assumed to be breeding on private parts of the bank side that could not be accessed.
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Amber	1	1	Most registrations pertain to singing males.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red	2	2	Birds breeding in suitable nesting habitat within the buffer zone.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber	1	1	Single territory held in the western buffer.
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber	2	2	Males holding territory across the central section of the site boundary.
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber	5	5	At least five territories on site, this species is retreating westwards from its former breeding range across much of lowland England.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	3	5	At least three territories considered to be held in suitable habitat, more could have been present but went undetected.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	6	7	Most records pertaining to singing males, numbers given are considered conservative.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red	3	3	Most records pertained to singing males.

Table 3.2: Non-breeding species recorded at Middleton.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Number noted during April visit	Number noted during May visit	Number noted during June visit	Number noted during July visit	Discussion
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Introduced	2				Flyovers.
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Green	2				Flyovers.

Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber		1	1	1	All registrations made were of singing males, but spread across the site.
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Green		3		1	Singing males.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green				3	Commuting around the seed/weed areas.
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Red	1				Male reeling.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green			1		Single registration.
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Amber			1		Passage bird.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green				4	Post breeding dispersal.
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green	1				Calling.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	1			1	Potentially controlled under licence in the immediate area.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red	1				Single bird seen during April.
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Green			1		Single bird on one visit only.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green	1		2		Flyovers.
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber	1				Single bird inadvertently flushed then flew away.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	1		3		Flyovers and non-breeders.
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Green				4	Four flying over the site, considered post breeding dispersal.
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Red		1			Single bird heard calling over the very western end of the site boundary.

Table 3.3: Breeding territories at Dene House farm.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Within site boundary, 50 metre-buffer, and walked transect route.		
			Min No. of Pairs	Max No. of Pairs	Discussion
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	1	1	Family party noted.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	1	1	Juvenile witnessed during June visit.
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green	2	3	Two or three pairs noted, all registrations made were of singing males.
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber	1	1	Family party noted during July visit.
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green	1	1	Pair heard calling in the buffer to the south-west of the site during June visit.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	1	1	Breeding around the site, noted on most visits.
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Amber	1	1	Breeding by the farm track, a vocal male on two visits.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber	1	1	Breeding within the site boundary.
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green	15	20	Nesting holes located within the sand bank on the site, a minimum of 15 pairs, possibly 20. Adults fed over the site boundary.
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Amber	1	1	Male singing routinely on three visits.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red	1	1	Breeding to the north-east of the site, could potentially use the site for foraging opportunities.
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Green	3	6	Breeding amongst suitable farm buildings at Dene House Farm itself. Hard to assess just how many pairs, but these birds were watched foraging over the site boundary itself.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	1	1	Breeding in the woodland to the south-west of the site boundary.

Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	3	3	All registrations pertained to singing males, at least three pairs.
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Table 3.4: Non-breeding species recorded at Dene House farm.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Number noted during April visit	Number noted during May visit	Number noted during June visit	Number noted during July visit	Discussion
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	1		1		On two visits.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green		1			Singing male on a single visit only.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green	2	1			Noted on two visits.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green		1		1	Birds calling on one visit and signing on another, possible breeder.
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Green		1			Male singing during May's visit only.
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Green			1		Singing male on one visit only.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green			1		Calling bird.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green			1	1	Utilising the river Wansbeck, considered post breeding dispersals.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber				1	Hunting.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red	2				Likely pre-breeding gathering before dispersal.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red				1	Flying over.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber		2			Pair during May visit.

Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	Introduced	2	1			Despite multiple registrations this tree-hole nester did not breed.
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Introduced	1	1			Introduced species.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green		1			Singing male recorded during May visit.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber				1	Singing male on July visit.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red				4	Post breeding birds.
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber	1				Passage male singing.

Table 3.5: Breeding territories at Ralphshield.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Within site boundary, 50 metre-buffer, and walked transect route.			
			Min No. of Pairs	Max No. of Pairs	Discussion	
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	1	1	In the boundary hedges and trees to the eastern end of the site.	
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	2	2	At least two pairs.	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	1	2	At least one pair, perhaps more. A widespread species in the area.	
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	2	2	Present within the site corridors and the eastern boundary.	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green	1	1	Singing in plantation to the south of the site boundary.	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	1	1	Present in the eastern buffer.	

House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Red	1	1	Appeared to be breeding around the building to the north-east buffer of the site boundary.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green	1	2	At least one pair, potentially two breeding within the site boundary.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber	1	1	Appear to be breeding in the wet areas adjoining the corridors on site. Pair flushed on two dates.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	3	4	Mostly breeding in the mixed cattle and sheep grazing area in the north-west part of the site boundary where the grassland is more suitable.
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Amber	1	1	Pair noted in the immediate vicinity, behaviour highly suggestive of breeding.
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Amber	3	3	Birds breeding with the corridors on site as well as over the southern buffer.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber	1	1	Pair within the site boundary.
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green	1	1	Using the site for foraging opportunities.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red	2	3	At least two pairs, possibly three.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber	1	1	Singing male on two visits.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	2	2	Considered to be at least two pairs, one within the corridor and one within the buffer.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green	1	1	Breeding along the south-western corridor of the site.
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Green	1	1	Considered to be breeding in the cattle shed.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	2	3	At least two pairs considered to be nesting with a much greater number of individuals noted.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	3	4	At least three pairs, spread mostly around the site perimeter and immediate buffer.

Table 3.6: Non-breeding species recorded at Ralphshield.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Number noted during April visit	Number noted during May visit	Number noted during June visit	Number noted during July visit	Discussion
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Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green			1		Adult male singing.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green			1	1	Flying over and seen perched.
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	1				Present in the plantation to the south of the site.
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Green		9		1	Commuting over the site, calling.
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Green		1			Seen on pond from the transect.
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Red	1	1			Noted commuting over the site on two visits.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber				1	Singing on a single visit only.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green			1		Calling in plantation to the south of the site boundary.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green				2	Either one or two birds, could easily have been the same bird commuting in the area.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber				1	Commuting over the site.
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Green	2	1			Using the site for foraging and commuting opportunities.
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Amber	110				Flying north over the site calling.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Green				2	Pair calling and lifting up from plantation to the south of the site.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	2				Singing males in April only.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber		6			Present on May visit only.

Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Amber	1				On April visit only.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green	7				Noted during April visits only.
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber	2		1		Possible breeders, but not enough evidence collected.
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green			1		Calling on single visit only.
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Red				1	Calling to north-east of the site in building in buffer.
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Amber	3				Three birds noted on April during passage.

Table 3.7: Breeding territories at Fairley.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Within site boundary, 50 metre-buffer, and walked transect route.		
			Min No. of Pairs	Max No. of Pairs	Discussion
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	1	1	Appear to be holding territory around the felled plantation.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	2	2	Present.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	3	3	Widespread in the area.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	3	3	Adults and juveniles witnessed.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	2	3	Around the site and buffer.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green	1	1	In the plantation to the east of the site boundary.
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber	1	1	Single territory held on waterway running through the site.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green	1	1	Appeared to be breeding in the dead tree to the north/north-east of the site boundary.

Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	2	2	Breeding in the riparian corridor, due to suitably high grass.
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Green	2	2	Holding territory both on the site and within the buffer area to the north-east.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	1	1	Present within the felled area.
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green	1	1	Using the western part of the site for foraging opportunities.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green	1	1	Breeding in the plantation to the east of the site boundary.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber	1	1	Singing males on two visits, therefore considered breeding.
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Green	1	1	Using the site for foraging opportunities.
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Red	2	4	Difficult to ascertain exact number of territories due to birds using private land. But at least two families considered to be present with juveniles seen.
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber	1	1	In the plantation to the east of the site boundary.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	1	1	Singing birds in plantation to the east of the site boundary.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	3	3	Breeding within the felled area as well as the plantation to the east of the site boundary.

Table 3.8: Non-breeding species recorded at Fairnley.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Number noted during April visit	Number noted during May visit	Number noted during June visit	Number noted during July visit	Discussion
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber				1	Flew over.
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	2				Singing and calling adults.

Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green	1			2	Flyovers and feeding on nearby feeders.
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Red	1				Flew over, pre-breeding bird likely dispersing.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red	20				Small wintering flock.
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Amber	1				Commuting over the site.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green			1		Present.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green			1	1	Assumed to be post-breeding dispersal.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber		3			Flying over.
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red				1	Flying over, calling.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red		2			Calling.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber		1		2	All were on water then flew off.
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Introduced	1				Single bird on one visit only.
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Amber		2			Singing males on May's visit only.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber			3		Commuting over the site at low altitude.
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber				1	Flying over the site boundary.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red				20	Post-breeding aggregation.
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber				3	Considered post-breeding birds.

Table 3.9: Breeding territories at Gallow Hill south.

English Name	Scientific Name		Within site boundary, 50 metre-buffer, and walked transect route.				
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		Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Min No. of Pairs	Max No. of Pairs	Discussion
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	1	1	Breeding in hedgerow along the road to farm,
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green	1	1	In copse to the south of farm buildings.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	5	6	Breeding across the site.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	1	1	Two territories actively held on the site.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	3	4	At least three territories held, possibly four. A declining species across most of southern England.
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green	3	3	At least three territories, nearly all records pertained to singing or calling individuals.
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Green	1	3	Present around farm buildings.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	2	3	At least two territories, but possibly more. A common passerine across most of England.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green	1	1	Territory being held in trees around farmstead.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green	1	1	Territory appeared to be being held in the quarry area.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green	1	2	Appeared to breeding in the area around farmstead.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red	1	1	At least one pair appeared to be breeding around the quarry area.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	1	1	Pair within the buffer area.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red	1	1	Pair appeared to be holding territory in the trees to the south of the farmstead.
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green	2	2	Appeared to be two pairs on site, one around farmstead and one in copse to the south.
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Green	1	1	Appeared to holding territory around the farmstead.
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Amber	1	1	One pair holding territory in the corridors being created at the middle of the site.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	3	3	Several pairs around the site.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber	3	5	Rookery identified, at least three pairs were noted.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red	1	1	Single territory just outside of the site and buffer zone.

Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	1	2	At least one pair appeared to be holding territory around the farmsteads, with possibly a second also in attendance.
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber	1	1	Single pair appeared to be breeding around the vicinity of the farmstead.
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Green	2	4	At least two pairs could be identified from outside farm buildings without entering, though there are considerably likely to be more.
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Red	2	2	At least two territories present, potentially more.
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber	1	1	Single territory appears to be being held along the 'Wannie Line' that runs through the site.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	1	2	At least one pair breeding in the copse to the south of the farmstead, but there are likely more pairs that simply went undetected.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	7	8	At least seven pairs considered to be on site, with more possible. Common and widespread.

Table 3.10: Non-breeding species recorded at Gallows Hill south.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Number noted during April visit	Number noted during May visit	Number noted during June visit	Number noted during July visit	Discussion
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber				1	Single registration on one visit only.
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green			1		Single registration made in June.
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Red		3	2		Breeding pair, but this was accounted for in Gallows Hill north, so placed here as not-

							breeding as primarily using Gallows Hill south for foraging opportunities.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green		2			Singing male.
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Green	1				Single bird flew over the site.
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red	2				Pair noted on one visit only.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green		1			A perched bird was seen then flew off.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber		1			Single registration made in May only.
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green		1			Single registration of a calling bird in May.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green			2	1	Calling birds flying over, no pattern suggestive of non-breeding.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber			1	1	Whilst singing males were noted, they were too distant from each other to be considered the same.
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Red				1	Single observation made in July only, this species was possibly breeding undetected on prior visits.
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Green			1		Single bird flushed from stone wall around farm.
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber			1		Single singing male in June could have been a fresh arrival.

Table 3.11: Breeding territories at Gallow Hill north.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Within site boundary, 50 metre-buffer, and walked transect route.		
			Min No. of Pairs	Max No. of Pairs	Discussion
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	1	1	Pair considered to be holding territory in the bushes along the riparian corridor.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	1	1	Single pair considered to be holding territory in the south-eastern corner of the site.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	1	1	At least one pair, conservative estimate. Not breeding on site, but holding territory for foraging.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	2	2	Singing males recorded both within the site boundary and the buffer zone.
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green	6	7	At least six, possibly seven territories. Most are on the eastern end of the site boundary and over into the buffer zone.
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Red	1	1	Single pair foraging on the site, a nest found with eggs within the 50-meter buffer to the south-west of the site boundary.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	1	1	At the eastern end of the site boundary, stretching partly into the site buffer zone.
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Red	2	2	At least two territorial males.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red	4	6	Spread around the site, through with a definite bias to the eastern end of the site and buffer.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber	1	1	Single pair considered to be breeding on the site in wet areas.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	16	20	A very common breeding bird, with semi-improved grassland providing many opportunities for both nesting and foraging.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber	4	5	At least four pairs, potentially more.

Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red	9	11	A common bird amongst the semi-improved grassland. Difficult to estimate due to species ecology.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber	1	1	Bird holding territory in the buffer to the north-east of the site boundary.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green	1	1	Single territory over the northern boundary and buffer of the site.
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Green	1	1	Birds appear to be holding territory over the site for foraging opportunities.
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber	1	1	Single pair in hedgerow bordering the southern edge of the site boundary.
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber	4	4	Breeding in the woodland within the buffer zone due east of the site.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	2	2	Not breeding on the site due to lack of suitable nesting locations.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	5	5	Present primarily around the eastern end of the site boundary where the site meets a woodland plantation.

Table 3.12: Non-breeding species recorded at Gallows Hill north.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Number noted during April visit	Number noted during May visit	Number noted during June visit	Number noted during July visit	Discussion
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green		1	1		Singing males.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green			1		Commuting over the site, likely using the site for foraging opportunities.
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Introduced	1				Flying over the site calling.

Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green				1	Singing male in the buffer to the south-east of the site.
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Amber		1			Single registration made on one visit only, bird landed then flew away.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green				1	Late singing male in the buffer to the south-east of the site.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green			1		Inadvertently flushed.
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber			1		Calling.
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Red			1	1	Flying over, calling suggestive of potentially breeding.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber	1	1		1	Whilst consistently recorded over the site, considered to be not breeding.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red	2				Pair over the south-western buffer of the site, but not noted subsequently.
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red			1	1	Despite flying over at roughly the same location on both visits, it was considered to be not breeding.
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	Introduced	1		1		Whilst present on two visits, it was considered the species was not breeding on site.
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Amber			3		Birds flew over calling, potentially a family party

							commuting around the area.
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Introduced			1		Single bird flushed during June visit.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	1		1	1	Potential breeder.
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green		2	1	2	Whilst birds were flying over the site, they were not routinely recorded in any one location. Considered non-breeders.
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Amber		2			A pair on wet areas on site before taking off.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green		1			Flyover, calling.
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Red				1	Single male on fence line to the west of the site.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red		1			Singing male on one visit.

4 REFERENCES

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5 FIGURES

The following figures appear below in the order in which they are listed:

- Figure 1: Breeding Bird Territories at Middleton 2024;
- Figure 2: Breeding Bird Territories at Dene House Farm 2024;
- Figure 3: Breeding Bird Territories at Ralphshield 2024;
- Figure 4: Breeding Bird Territories at Fairnley Farm 2024;
- Figure 5: Breeding Bird Territories at Gallows Hill south 2024; and
- Figure 6: Breeding Bird Territories at Gallows Hill North 2024.

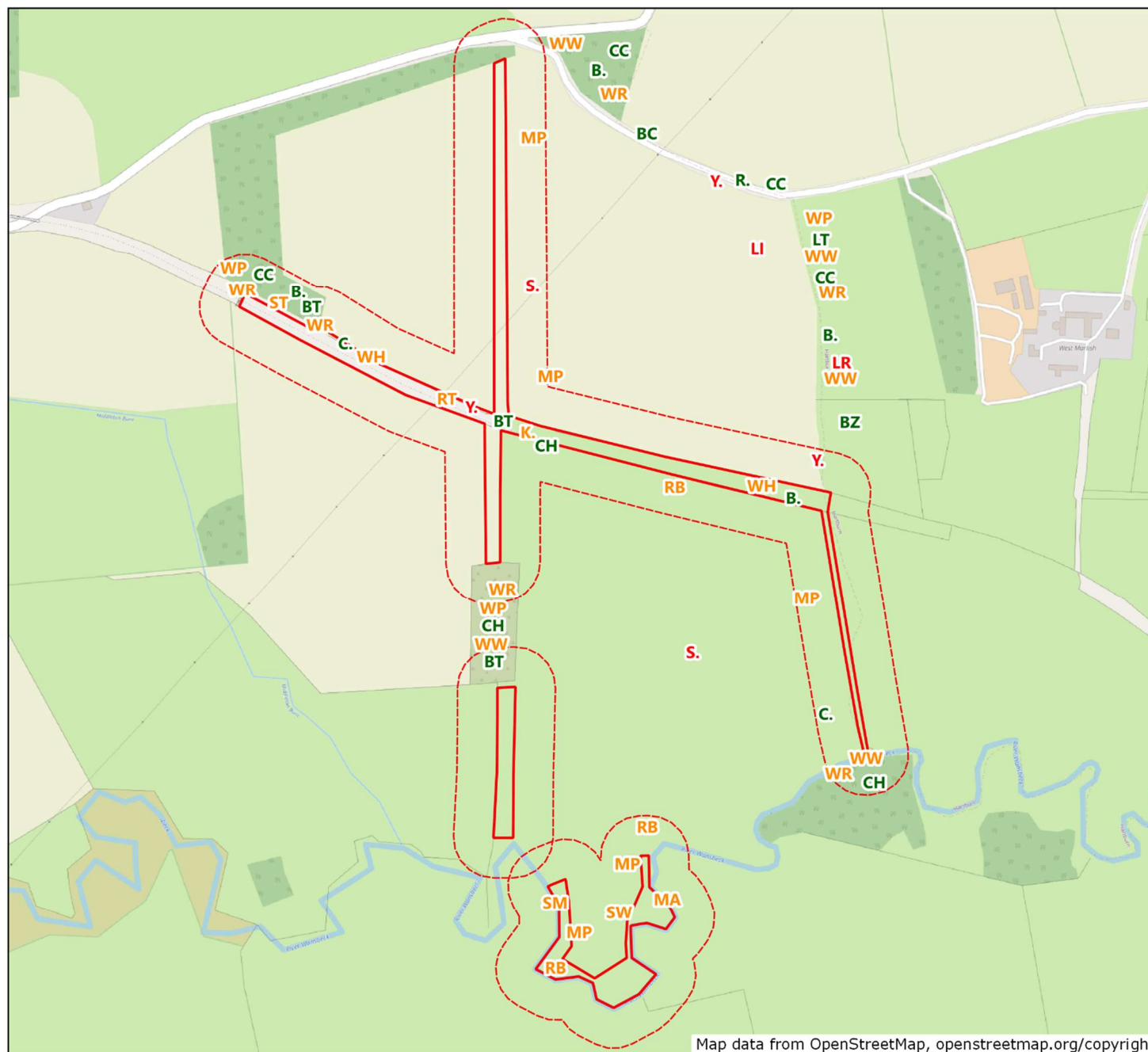


Figure 1: Breeding Bird Territories at Middleton 2024

Wansbeck Restoration for Climate Change

Legend

- Middleton
- Middleton 50-meter buffer
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird
- Green Listed Bird



Scale: 1:6600
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 01/09/2024



BIRDWATCH
 NORTH EAST

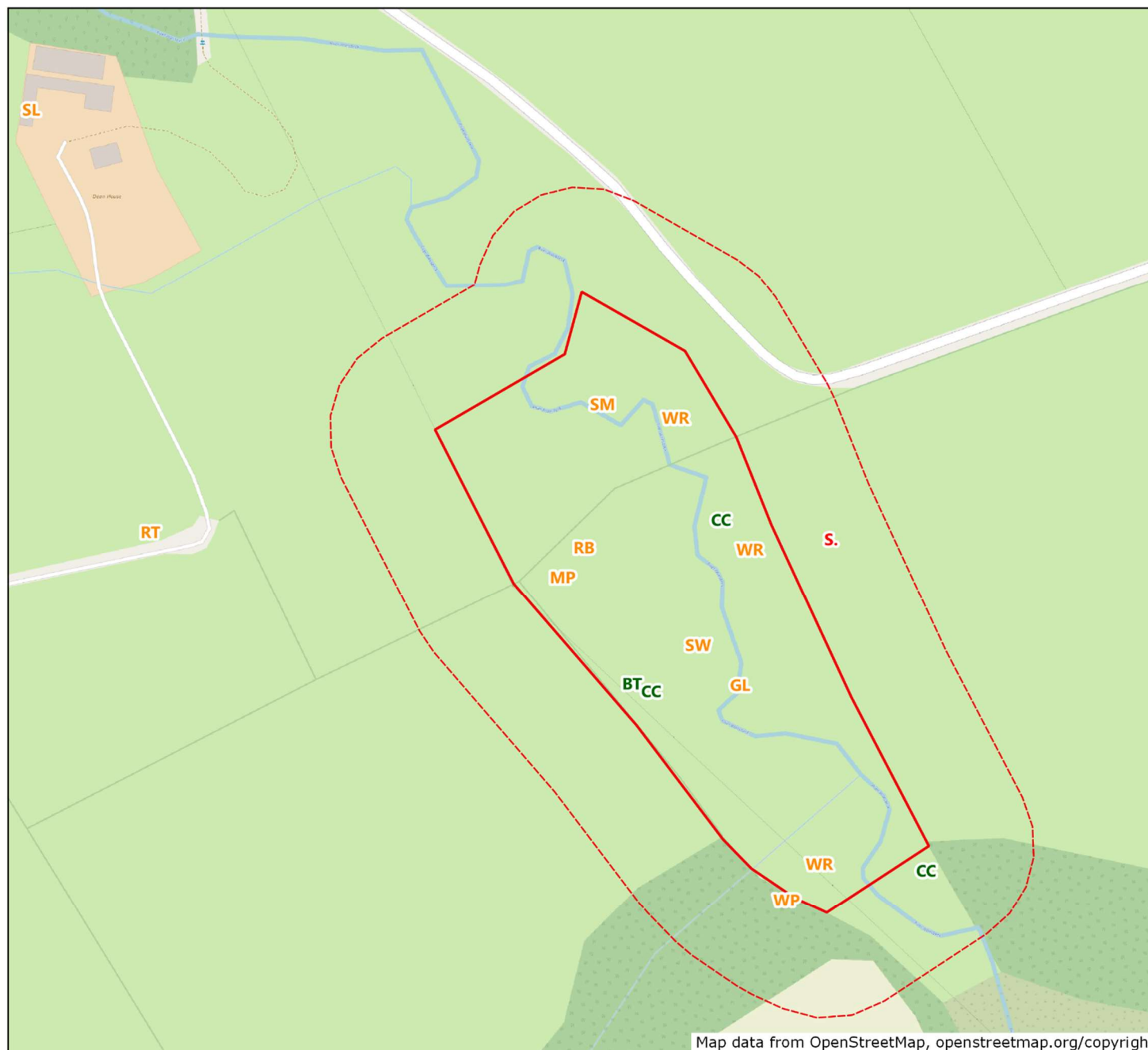


Figure 2: Breeding Bird Territories at Dene House Farm 2024

Wansbeck Restoration for Climate Change

Legend

- Dene House Farm
- Dene House Farm 50-meter buffer
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird
- Green Listed Bird



Scale: 1:2500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 01/09/2024



BIRDWATCH
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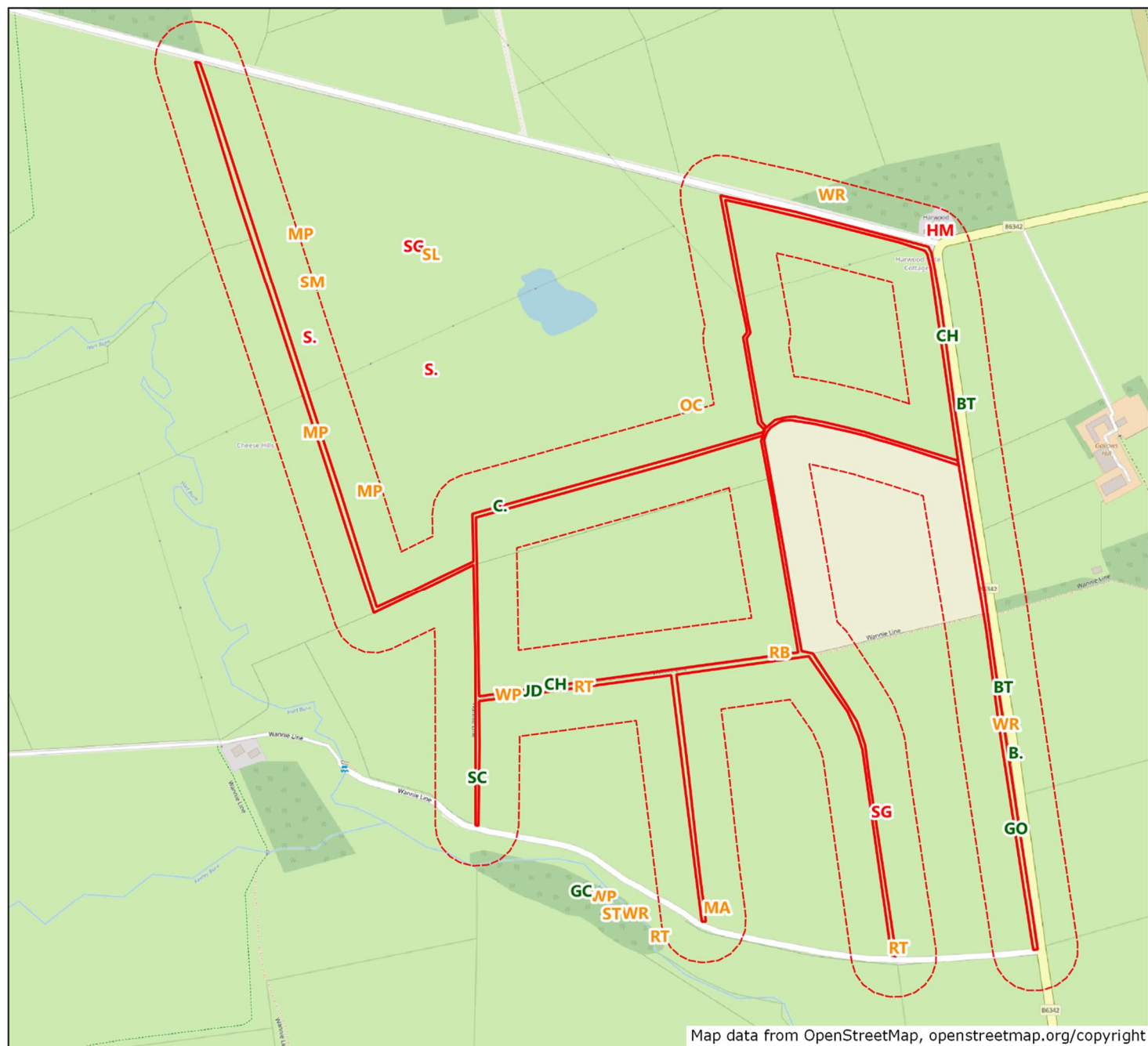


Figure 3: Breeding Bird Territories at Ralphshield 2024

Wansbeck Restoration for Climate Change

Legend

- Ralphshield
- Ralphshield 50-meter buffer
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird
- Green Listed Bird



Scale: 1:6500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 01/09/2024



BIRDWATCH
 NORTH EAST

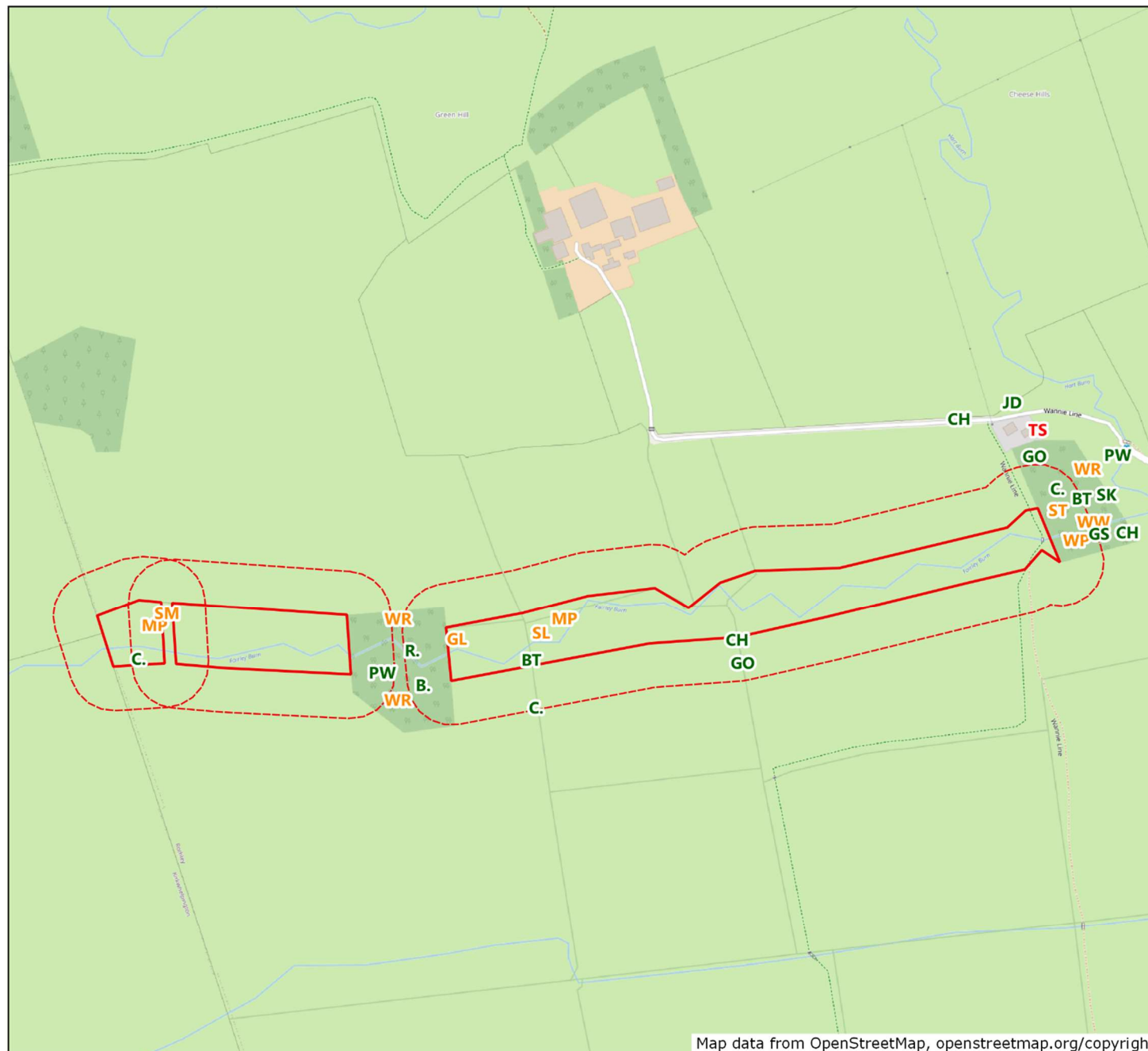


Figure 4: Breeding Bird Territories at Fairley Farm 2024

Wansbeck Restoration for Climate Change

Legend

- Fairley Farm
- Fairley Farm 50-meter buffer
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird
- Green Listed Bird



Scale: 1:6000
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 01/09/2024



BIRDWATCH
 NORTH EAST

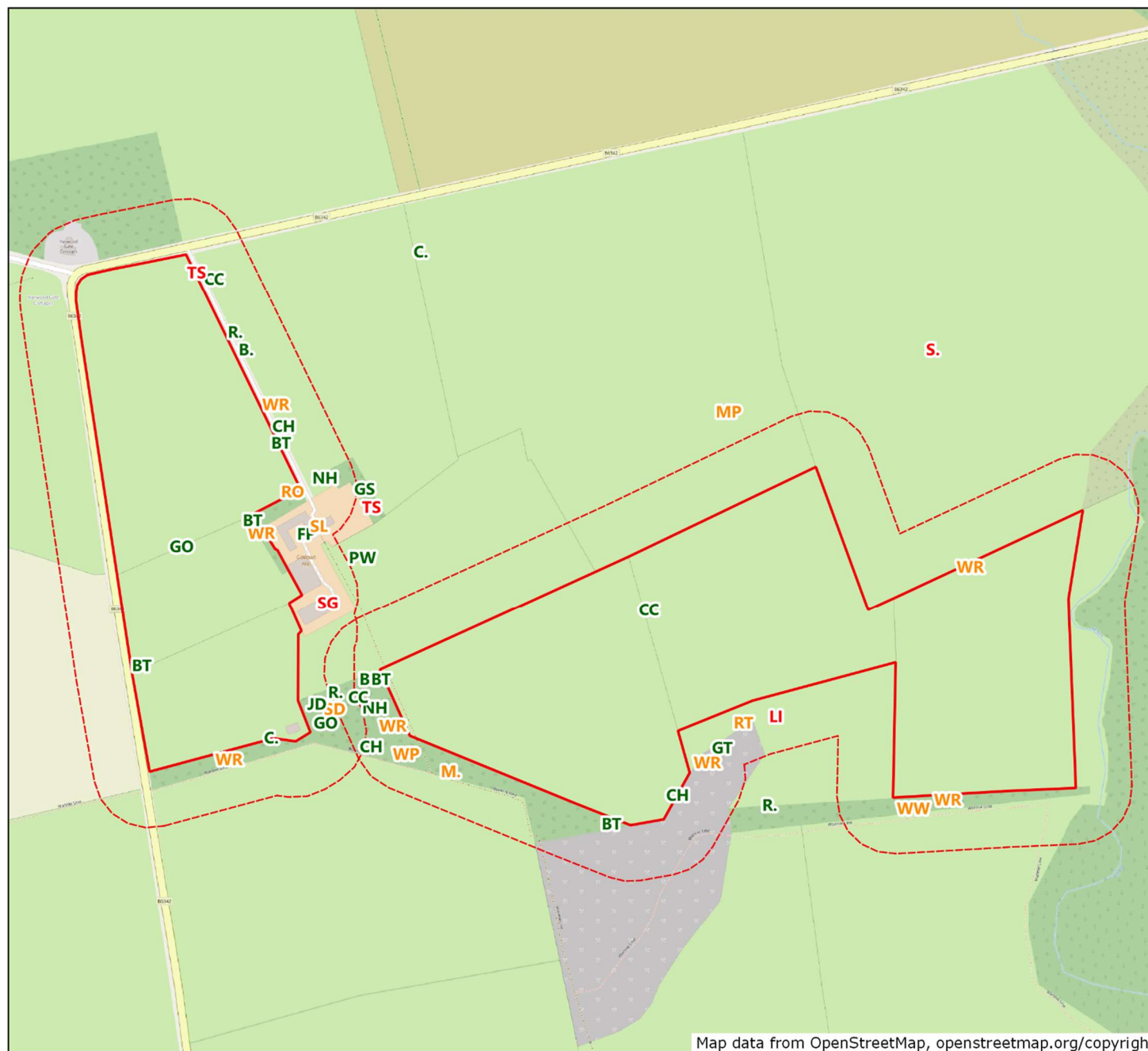


Figure 5: Breeding Bird Territories at Gallows Hill South 2024

Wansbeck Restoration for Climate Change

Legend

- Gallows Hill South
- Gallows Hill South 50-meter buffer
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird
- Green Listed Bird



Scale: 1:4700
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 01/09/2024



BIRDWATCH
 NORTH EAST

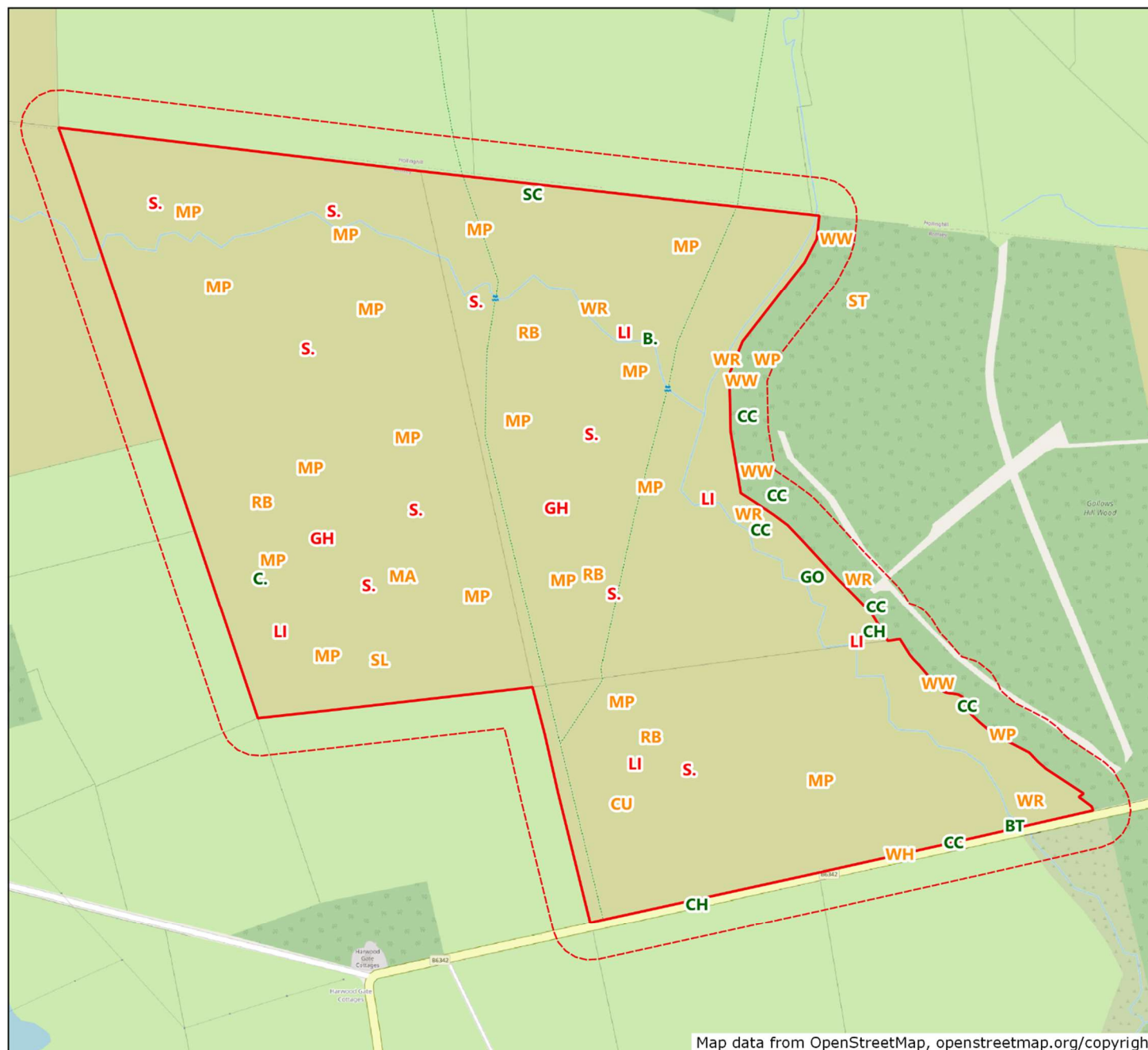


Figure 6: Breeding Bird Territories at Gallows Hill North 2024

Wansbeck Restoration for Climate Change

Legend

-  Gallows Hill North
-  Gallows Hill North 50-meter buffer
-  Red Listed Bird
-  Amber Listed Bird
-  Green Listed Bird



Scale: 1:7000
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 01/09/2024



BIRDWATCH
NORTH EAST