



BIRDWATCH NORTH EAST

Wintering Bird Surveys

Wansbeck Restoration for Climate Change (WRCC)



(Jack Snipe at Dene House Farm, January 2024 - © Birdwatch North East)



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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	2
1.1	Background and Commission.....	2
1.2	The Site.....	2
1.3	Survey Aims.....	2
2	METHODOLOGIES.....	3
2.1	Field Survey	3
2.2	Surveyors and Weather	3
2.3	Limitations	4
3	RESULTS	5
3.1	Field Survey	5
3.2	Species recorded	5
4	REFERENCES.....	24
5	FIGURES	24

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Commission

- 1.1.1 Birdwatch North East Ltd was commissioned by Groundwork in October 2023 to undertake a series of wintering 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 land or taken into sheds to prevent saturated ground worsening in condition. The wider project focus as undertaken by Groundwork aims to change the land use for each site boundary surveyed. There are plans for woodland and hedgerow restoration 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 also planned for Gallows Hill north.

1.3 Survey Aims

- 1.3.1 The aim of the survey was to undertake a series of wintering bird surveys (hereafter WBS) to establish the diversity of avifauna within the various site boundaries and immediate surroundings. This data should allow for future comparison of changes in avifauna once restoration works start to 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 the transect.
- 2.1.2 A series of four visits were made to each site during each month from November 2023 to February 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.
- 2.1.3 All contacts with birds were recorded whether by sight or sound, these were then plotted onto a map using standardised BTO species codes (*Standard naming and coding of species and subspecies regularly found in Britain and Ireland (long list). n.d.*).
- 2.1.4 Registrations and their distribution over the surveys then allow for an assessment of the wintering population of species utilising the area surveyed.

2.2 Surveyors and Weather

- 2.2.1 All survey work was undertaken by Andrew Kinghorn, an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (ACIEM), an experienced ornithologist with over 18 years of field experience in bird identification, and over five 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 direction and speed (mph)	Visibility	Precipitation
Dene House	09.11.2023	0945-1045	6	100	SSE 4	>2km	Rain
Middleton	09.11.2023	1115-1315	7	70	SSE 4	>2km	Rain 1115-1130
Fairley	14.11.2023	1140-1255	8	100	E2	>2km	Rain 1140-1200
Ralphshield	14.11.2023	1300-1430	7	100	E2	>2km	None
Gallows Hill	15.11.2023	0830-1130	9	80	NNW14 then N9	>2km	Very light drizzle from 1100

Dene House	06.12.2023	1420-1520	3	0	SE6	>2km	Frost covering 70% of the survey area
Middleton	06.12.2023	12:10-14:10	4	0	SSE6	>2km	Frost covering most of the area
Gallows Hill	11.12.2023	0900-1200	6	20	WNW12	>2km	None
Ralphshield	13.12.2023	0955-1125	5	50	N7	>2km	Brief showers at 0955 and 1100
Fairley	13.12.2023	1125-1255	5	50	N7	>2km	None
Middleton	08.01.2024	0900-1100	4	100	E7	>2km	Very brief showers
Dene House	08.01.2024	1115-1215	4	100	E7	>2km	None
Fairley	09.01.2024	0840-1010	3	100	E7	>2km	None
Ralphshield	09.01.2024	1010-1140	3	100	E7	>2km	None
Gallows Hill	11.01.2024	1000-1300	7	100	NE9	>2km	Showers, brief but frequent
Dene House	07.02.2024	0850-0950-	2	100	W8	>2km	None
Middleton	07.02.2024	1005-1205	3	70	W12	>2km	Light and infrequent rain/snow flurries
Ralphshield	08.02.2024	0900-1030	2	100	E13	>2km	Hail showers
Fairley	08.02.2024	1030-1200	2	100	ESE13	>2km	Hail shower
Gallows Hill	22.02.2024	0845-1145	5	70	W8	>2km	None

2.3 Limitations

- 2.3.1 The CBC methodology does recommend ten visits to a site; however, it is more common for a single visit to a site to be made once per month between November and February (*Non-breeding walkover survey, Bird Survey Guidelines*). In line with this guidance, single visits were undertaken to each site during the survey period.
- 2.3.2 Areas that could not be accessed on a transect route were instead scanned carefully with binoculars from a sensible vantage point, this applied to Gallows Hill north due to high water levels associated with rainfall over the first half of the winter period.

- 2.3.3 High flying species that were not perceived to be interacting with the site at all 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 69 species were recorded on the walked transects, many of these were interacting with the site boundaries or buffer zones. A total of 36 were birds of conservation concern, sitting on either the red (15 species) or amber list (21 species). Full details of species recorded and a further discussion is given in *Table 3.1 to Table 3.6*.

3.2 Species recorded

- 3.2.1 The tables below (Tables 3.1 to 3.6) detail the entire list of bird species recorded from chosen transect routes walked during all surveys. The discussion column provides more context and discussion where appropriate. This is followed by a series of figures (Figures 1 to 24), these are a monthly breakdown of all registrations of red and amber list species of conservation concern (*Stanbury et al. December 2021*) noted at each site. Registrations are made in the form of BTO species codes and where appropriate are followed by the number of individuals noted.

Table 3.1: Species recorded during surveys at Dene House Farm.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Number noted during November Visit	Number noted during December Visit	Number noted during January Visit	Number noted during February Visit	Discussion
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	1	5	2	1	Present on all visits.
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber	1				Only a single bird noted in November.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	1	3	1	7	Using isolated hawthorns and shrubbery that immediately border the site boundary.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green		1			Flew over the site boundary.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	1		2	1	Common both within site boundary and in surrounding area.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	4		2	1	Present on three of the four visits.
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber	30				Only seen during November visit. The birds were feeding on pasture utilised for sheep grazing.
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Green				1	Flew over site boundary calling.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber		1		2	Often around hay bales just outside site boundary.
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Amber				1	Flew along Wansbeck.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red	7	100		8	Utilising the shrubs on the edge of the site for foraging, as well as commuting over the site boundary.
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber	1	1			Feeding on the River Wansbeck and utilising pools that have been created.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green			1		In the woodland adjacent to the site boundary.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green	1		1		Flying over the site and will be utilising the Wansbeck for feeding opportunities.

Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red	5		25		Commuting over the site and using adjacent sheep pasture for foraging.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green		2	58		Foraging in pasture adjoining the site boundary.
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	Green		3	2		Cryptically plumaged species found using Pulsar thermal imaging technology. Utilising the steams and recently created pools.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber			1	1	Hunting the site boundary and adjacent farmland.
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red	1				Flew over calling.
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green		1			Using habitat on site boundary and adjacent farmland.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber				2	On newly created pools within the site boundary, then flew off.
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber		2			Utilising the habitat around the edge of the Wansbeck.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green		1	1	2	Present on three of the four visits.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber	1				Utilising the habitat on the edge of the site boundary.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber	1				Amongst flock of Fieldfares.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber			41		Primarily utilising livestock pasture adjacent to the site for feeding opportunities.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red				11	Returning breeding birds seen in February visit on pasture used for cattle grazing to the north-east of the site boundary.
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber	1				Flew over.
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber	8	1	5	6	Utilising the recently created pools and steams for feeding and roosting opportunities.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	2	2	2	1	Numbers were consistent across the four visits.

Table 3.2: Species recorded during surveys at Middleton.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (Stanbury et al. December 2021).	Number noted during November Visit	Number noted during December Visit	Number noted during January Visit	Number noted during February Visit	Discussion
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	12	5	6	6	November's increase could be related to passage birds.
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber	4	13	3	1	A good population, benefitting from largely intact hedgerows.
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Green		1			Single bird in December was heard calling.
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Green				1	Roosting in ivy covered tree.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	6	8	3	3	Common both on site and in immediate surroundings.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green		1	1	1	At least one appeared to be using the site as part of a wintering territory.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	6	5	3	1	Wintering on site in good numbers.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	10	4	14	2	A common wintering bird around the site and surrounds.
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber		2	1	1	Using the adjacent farmland for foraging opportunities.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber	1	1	5	1	There appeared to be an increase in January, other than that number appeared similar across the period.
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Green		3			Only seen on one visit, this could be as a result of water levels either in the immediate area or further afield, causing birds to utilise the Wansbeck.

Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red	47	46	19	50	Similar numbers appeared to winter on the site, making use of berry laden bushes both on site and in the surrounding area.
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Amber				3	Seen on one visit only, feeding on nearby pasture and then flew off.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green	1		2		Present in suitable habitat.
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Amber	26				High flying birds over the northern edge of the site were the only registrations made over the period.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	15	3	16	36	Common on site.
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red	5		1	2	Scarce on site, with more in November.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green	1			1	Present in wooded areas adjacent to main site boundary.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green	2				Fairly scarce in November then lacking the rest of the winter.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green		1			A single registration, which seemed to coincide with an increase in presence of Little Egret on the Wansbeck.
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red	7		17	2	Primarily flying over the site and using farmland in the vicinity for foraging opportunities.
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green	1			2	Using wooded areas and hedgerows adjacent to the site.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green		2	5	7	Present.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber	1			1	Using the site and surrounding area for foraging opportunities.
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Green		1	1		Seen on two visits, utilising the Wansbeck.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red	10	38	3	35	Small flocks throughout the winter.

Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red			1	1	Heard calling.
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green			1	4	Utilising hedgerows on site and in the immediate vicinity.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red		1	1		Birds present on two visits; this species can often range widely on a winter territory.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber		5			Present primarily around the Wansbeck.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green		1			Single bird seen on one visit.
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Red			1		A single bird appeared to be hunting passerines that were utilising a field.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	5	1	3	1	Present throughout the period.
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	No Status		1			Only one registration made.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber	2		11	2	Absence in December but present in other months with a slight increase in January.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber	14				In with Fieldfares.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber		18	13		Utilising the surrounding pasture for foraging and commuting over the site.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red	13	2	3	4	Present in November in good numbers, this then dropped with fewer staying to winter on site before then starting to sing again during February's visit.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green			1		Only a single bird noted during the period.
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber		1		2	Likely using the site for hunting opportunities on account of good numbers of wintering passerines.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red			12	10	Mostly commuting over the site and surrounding area.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green		1			Heard calling.

Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber	10	13	6		Present in good numbers through most of the period. A lack of presence in February could be related to birds moving back to breeding areas.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber	1	1	1	2	Present on site during every visit.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber		130	17	5	Primarily around the Wansbeck where there was foraging opportunities available for the species.
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green			1	1	Present in surrounding areas, primarily wooded areas.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber		26	2		Present on site and commuting over.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	6	6	6	4	Present in relatively stable numbers throughout the winter.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red	3	5	3	8	Present in good numbers, seemingly to increase as the winter period went on.

Table 3.3: Species recorded during surveys at Fairnley.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (<i>Stanbury et al. December 2021</i>).	Number noted during November Visit	Number noted during December Visit	Number noted during January Visit	Number noted during February Visit	Discussion
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	1				Present in November only.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	3	1	7		Numbers appeared to peak in January.
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Green			1	5	Birds were primarily using a garden of a house to the east of the site where birds were being fed on feeders.

Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green	1		2	1	Using the site for hunting opportunities.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	6	2	6	1	Present on site throughout and seen foraging on pasture adjacent to hedgerow creation.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	8	6	11	50	Present in good numbers throughout, particularly around feeders of house to the south-west of the site.
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	1	1			Present on two of four visits.
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green			2		Present in January only.
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Green		13	3	3	Birds were primarily using pine areas to the east of the site boundary, but they were also noted flying over calling, this will be birds commuting between feeding areas.
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber		14		80	Primarily using the site for foraging and commuting opportunities.
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Green			15		Birds were seen commuting over the site during January's visit.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green		1			Single bird present during December's visit.
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Amber				2	Two birds appeared to be using pasture adjacent to the site for foraging opportunities during February's visit.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green		1			Single bird noted during December's visit.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green		1	1		Present on two visits.
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red		47			Commuting over the site.

House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red	5				Present on one of four visits.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green	34	17	46	3	Using the site for both foraging and commuting.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber	1	1			A bird present during first two visits, the species was likely wintering, but was not recorded on subsequent visits.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	2	1	4		Present on most visits.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	1	2			Present on first two visits, potentially using surrounding areas for wintering opportunities and visiting the site for foraging.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red		1		1	Present on two of the four visits, the species was using the trees and hedgerows for perching and then foraging in surrounding pasture.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber				1	Only a single bird noted throughout visits.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber			3		Present during January's visit only.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	1		3		Present on two of the four visits.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber	49	8		15	Using the surrounding pasture for foraging opportunities.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber			1		Present in January only.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	7	65	20	5	Using the site for foraging and commuting.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red				1	A single bird in February almost certainly pertained to an early returning breeder.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber			1		One present on pool seen from transect.

Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Red		3	12	5	Species was primarily using the garden feeders and surrounding area of the house to the east of the site.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber			55		Birds were seen in trees adjacent to the site and were likely using the site for foraging opportunities.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	3	2	2	2	Numbers largely stable throughout the period.

Table 3.4: Species recorded during surveys at Ralphshield.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (<i>Stanbury et al. December 2021</i>).	Number noted during November Visit	Number noted during December Visit	Number noted during January Visit	Number noted during February Visit	Discussion
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	2				Present during one visit.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	5		6	5	Numbers fairly consistent across visits.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green	1		4	1	Using the area site and surrounds for hunting opportunities.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	21	9	2	8	Present in good numbers, particularly in November when a flock was feeding on adjacent pasture.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green			1		A single bird present on one visit only.
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	1	1			Present on two visits only.
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber	14		6		Using the site and immediate surrounds for foraging opportunity.
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Green		1			A single bird was noted flying over the site in December.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red	64	28	81	13	Present in good numbers in trees and hedgerows around the site

							and using the pasture for foraging opportunities.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green	1				Single bird noted on one visit only.
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Green		100		90	Present in December and February's visits, the species was clearly wintering in a flock in the wider area and was occasionally commuting over the site.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green				1	Bird was present on a single visit only.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green		1			Present on one visit only.
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red	2				Primarily using the pool adjacent to the site (viewed from the transect) for bathing.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red	1			10	Present on two visits.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green	2	2		4	Present on three of the four visits, primarily using adjacent land for foraging opportunities.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber	1	1			Present on two of four visits.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red		120			A large flock was seen flying over the site during December's visit, they came from a long distance to the south-west, clearly wintering in the area and using multiple parcels of land.
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red		1			Single bird heard calling during December's visit.
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green		1			Bird was noted calling during December's visit.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	3				Only three individuals on one visit.

Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber	26	12		1	Present primarily on the small pool visible from the transect to the north of the site.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber			1		Single bird during one visit.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red	7	1	1		Birds were present throughout the winter period and it is likely they will stay to breed.
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green			2		Present on one of four visits.
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	No Status	1				Only a single registration made.
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Green	1	2	1		Present on three of the four visits, species was primarily using adjacent pasture for foraging opportunities.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Green			2		Two individuals noted during January, they were right on the edge of the site boundary over Harewood Forest.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber			36	4	Seen during two of the four visits, primarily associating with Fieldfares.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber			2	1	Seen on two of four visits.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	1		1	1	Noted on three of four visits.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber	1		1	10	Present on three of four visits.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green			100		A large and vocal flock flew over calling.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red				3	Present on one of four visits, these birds likely pertain to returning breeding birds.

Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber				1	A single bird was noted on one visit only and it was on adjacent land.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	259	153	138	39	Using the site and adjacent land for foraging and commuting opportunities.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber	2	20		20	Present on a small pool visible from the transect.
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green	1				Single bird heard and seen during December's visit in trees to the east of the site.
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Amber				1	A single bird was using the pool visible from the chosen transect.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	3	4	3	1	Present across all visits, with a slight drop off in number during February's visit.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red		1			Only a single bird heard in December's visit.

Table 3.5: Species recorded during surveys at Gallows Hill south.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (<i>Stanbury et al. December 2021</i>).	Number noted during November Visit	Number noted during December Visit	Number noted during January Visit	Number noted during February Visit	Discussion
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	9	14	6	4	Present on all visits, with good numbers notes in December.
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber		1	8		Present on two of four visits.
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Green	350	6			Impressive flock on November largely moved on by December, they were feeding in the quarry area and then perching up in trees and hedgerows.

Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	10	10	6	7	Present on four visits, with good numbers in November and December.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green	1	1	1		Present on three of four visits, the species appeared to use part of the site as its wintering territory.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	2	3	4	3	Present in a consistent number throughout the period.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	1	12	3	4	Good numbers throughout the survey period.
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Green	16			1	Commuting over the site calling.
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	2	5	10	2	Present in good numbers in woodland and hedgerows around the site and surrounding area.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber	1	4		1	Present on three of the four visits.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red	71	70	1	37	Present in good numbers during ever visit, except January.
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Green	6				Using farm buildings.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green	1	1			Present on two of the four visits.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green				2	Present on only one visit, perhaps potential breeders moving into area.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green	2	4	2	3	Present on all visits.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red		1			Scarce in the area despite suitable nesting locations in farm buildings.
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green		1			Present on one visit only.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green			2		Present on one visit only, primarily around farm buildings and pasture.

Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber			1		Present on one visit only.
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red	8				A small flock flew over in November, they were not subsequently recorded.
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green	2		4		Small roving winter flocks.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red			2		Present on one visit only.
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	Red			1		Present to the south-east of the site in mature tree and hedgerows with rotting wood, this is a rare species.
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green	2	2		2	Birds primarily using woodland to the south of the farm buildings, this section of mature woodland was well used by several species.
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	No Status		5	1		Present.
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Green	1		1		Present on two of the four visits, primarily using farm buildings and adjacent pasture.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	5	2		5	Present on three of the four visits, almost certainly just not noticed during one of these.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber				1	A single bird on one visit only.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber	1	1	14	15	Present more so during the latter half of the survey period, mainly associating with Fieldfares.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber	1			1	Single birds on two visits, both times foraging on pasture.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red	3				Present in November only, suggesting passage birds, which then displaced elsewhere.

Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	30	121	35	51	Use the site and adjacent land for both commuting and foraging opportunities.
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber	1				A single bird noted flying through the area.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber			3	3	Birds were present during the latter half of the survey period, this could be in relation to weather elsewhere, or a food source having been found.
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green		1	1	2	Present on three of four visits, but the reclusive nature of the species suggests it could be present in higher numbers.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	80	404	20		Impressive numbers of birds utilising the trees and hedgerows adjacent to the site.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	2	2	6	3	Present on all visits.

Table 3.6: Species recorded during surveys at Gallows Hill north.

English Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (<i>Stanbury et al. December 2021</i>).	Number noted during November Visit	Number noted during December Visit	Number noted during January Visit	Number noted during February Visit	Discussion
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	1	1	3		Primarily using the trees and hedgerows.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green		1			Present on a single visit only.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green		1		1	Using the site for both commuting and potentially foraging opportunities.

Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	6	3		7	Present on most visits, mostly foraging on the site or commuting over it.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green			1		A single bird on one visit only.
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber	20				Birds were noted commuting over the site on one visit.
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Green	10		2	1	Birds flew over the area calling on three of the four visits, most of these registrations pertained to birds commuting between feeding areas.
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Red				1	A single bird recorded during February's visit could either pertain to passage or a prospective breeding bird.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber	1	1			Present on two of four visits.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red		8			Flock was utilising trees and hedgerows on the southern edge of the site during December's visit.
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Amber	1				Single bird was noted flying over the site during one visit only.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green	2	2			Present in habitat adjacent to the site on two of the four visits. This species can be hard to detect due to its shy and reclusive nature.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	1				Present during one visit only and it pertained to a flyover.
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red		11			Birds commuting over the site were noted on one visit only.
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green	1				Single bird was noted during November's visit.

Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber		1	1	1	Present on three visits and was seen actively hunting over the area.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red				2	Present in fields adjacent to the site, these are suitable for breeding and these birds will be either passage or potential breeders.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red				1	Single registration of a bird flying over and calling on one visit only.
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red	71				Present in good numbers during November's visit but not subsequently.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red				2	Present during February's visit and these are likely potential breeders.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber			10	6	Utilising the recently created pools present through the habitat restoration of the area, the species was completely lacking before the works had been undertaken.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	2	5	1	18	Present in smaller numbers for the first three visits, then a large increase in number in February was likely to pertain to birds returning to breed in the area.
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	No Status	1				Present on one visit only.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	1	1	2		Present on three of the four visits.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber		2		2	Perhaps went unrecorded on two visits, it is likely the species wintered on the site throughout.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber		1			Single bird only on one visit.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Green				2	Two birds flew over calling during February's visit, there is nowhere suitable on the site or the

							immediate surrounds for nesting. They are likely looking to breed at Harewood Forest.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber		4			Noted on only one visit, the site is largely suboptimal for foraging opportunities for this species.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red				12	Impressive numbers had returned to the area to breed during February's visit.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green			1	1	A single bird was noted on two visits, this bird could potentially be a returning breeder or could have wintered in the area.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	4		59		The species was using the site for commuting purposes.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green	20				A flock was calling as it commuted over the site.
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber			3	1	Present around the site in low numbers immediately following peat bog restoration works.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber		1	2	1	Present around the site in low numbers, but the site is suboptimal for the species in its current state.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber			4		Present on one visit, these birds were seen to be utilising pools created through the habitat restoration project.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	6	4	4	4	Present on all visits.

4 REFERENCES

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<https://birdsurveyguidelines.org/non-breeding-walkover-survey/>

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5 FIGURES

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

- Figure 1: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in November 2023;
- Figure 2: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in December 2023;
- Figure 3: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in January 2024;
- Figure 4: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in February 2024;
- Figure 5: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in November 2023;
- Figure 6: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in December 2023;
- Figure 7: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in January 2024;
- Figure 8: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in February 2024;
- Figure 9: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in November 2023;
- Figure 10: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in December 2023;
- Figure 11: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in January 2024;
- Figure 12: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in February 2024;
- Figure 13: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairnley in November 2023;
- Figure 14: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairnley in December 2023;
- Figure 15: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairnley in January 2024;
- Figure 16: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairnley in February 2024;
- Figure 17: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in November 2023;
- Figure 18: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in December 2023;
- Figure 19: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in January 2024;
- Figure 20: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in February 2024;

- Figure 21: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in November 2023;
- Figure 22: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in December 2023;
- Figure 23: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in January 2024; and
- Figure 24: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in February 2024.

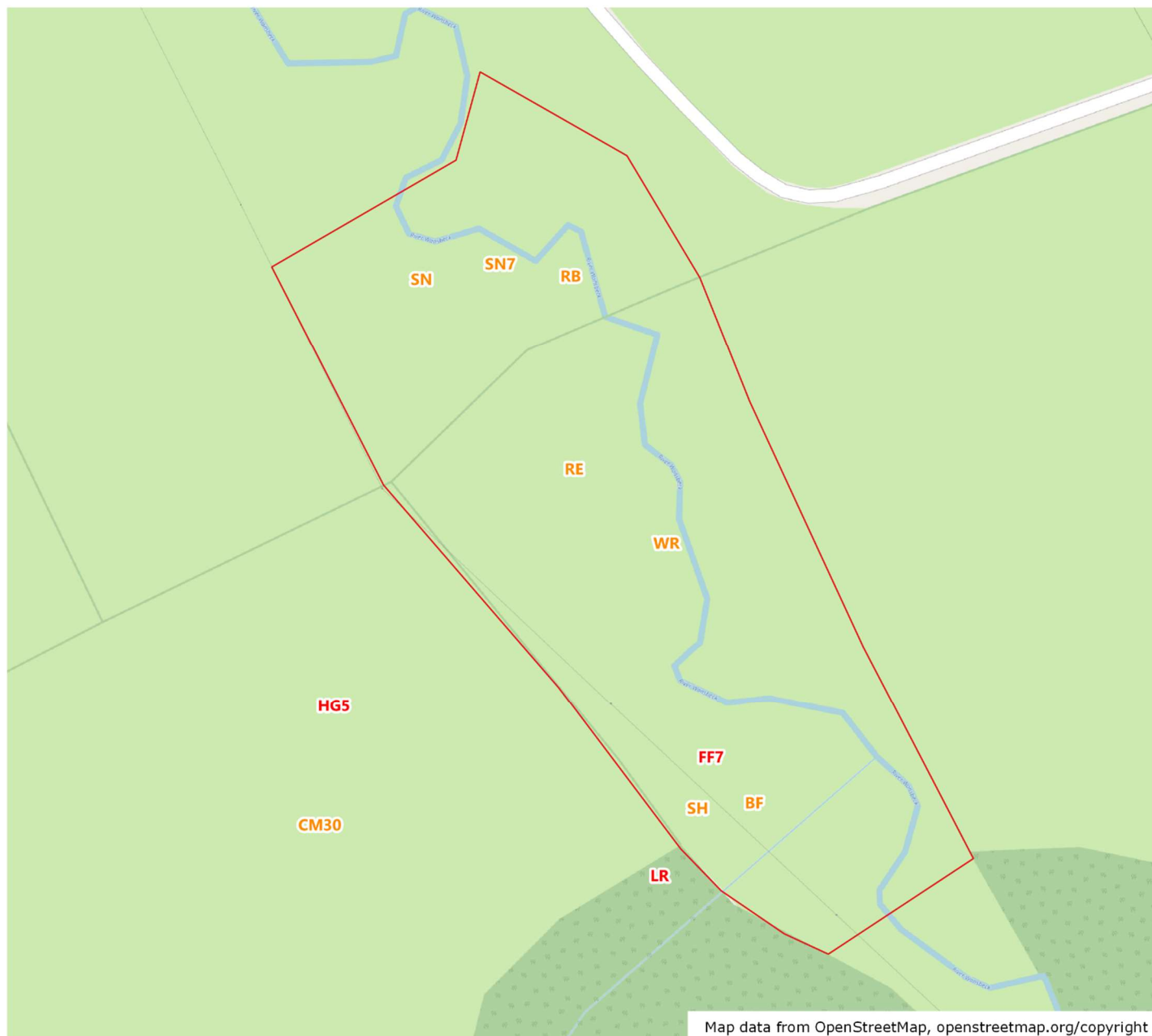


Figure 1: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in November 2023

Legend

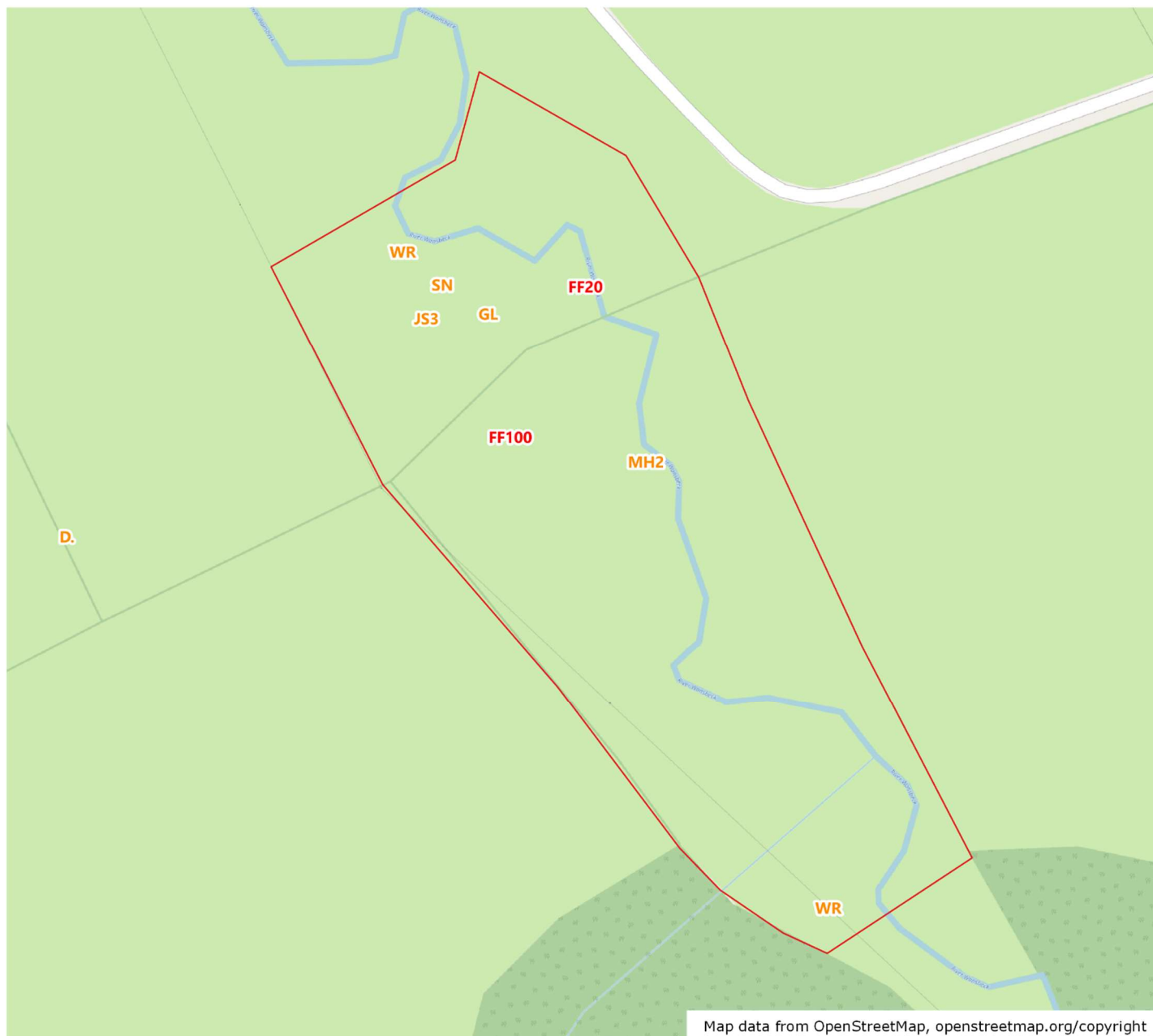
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- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:1700
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 27/03/2024



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Figure 2: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in December 2023

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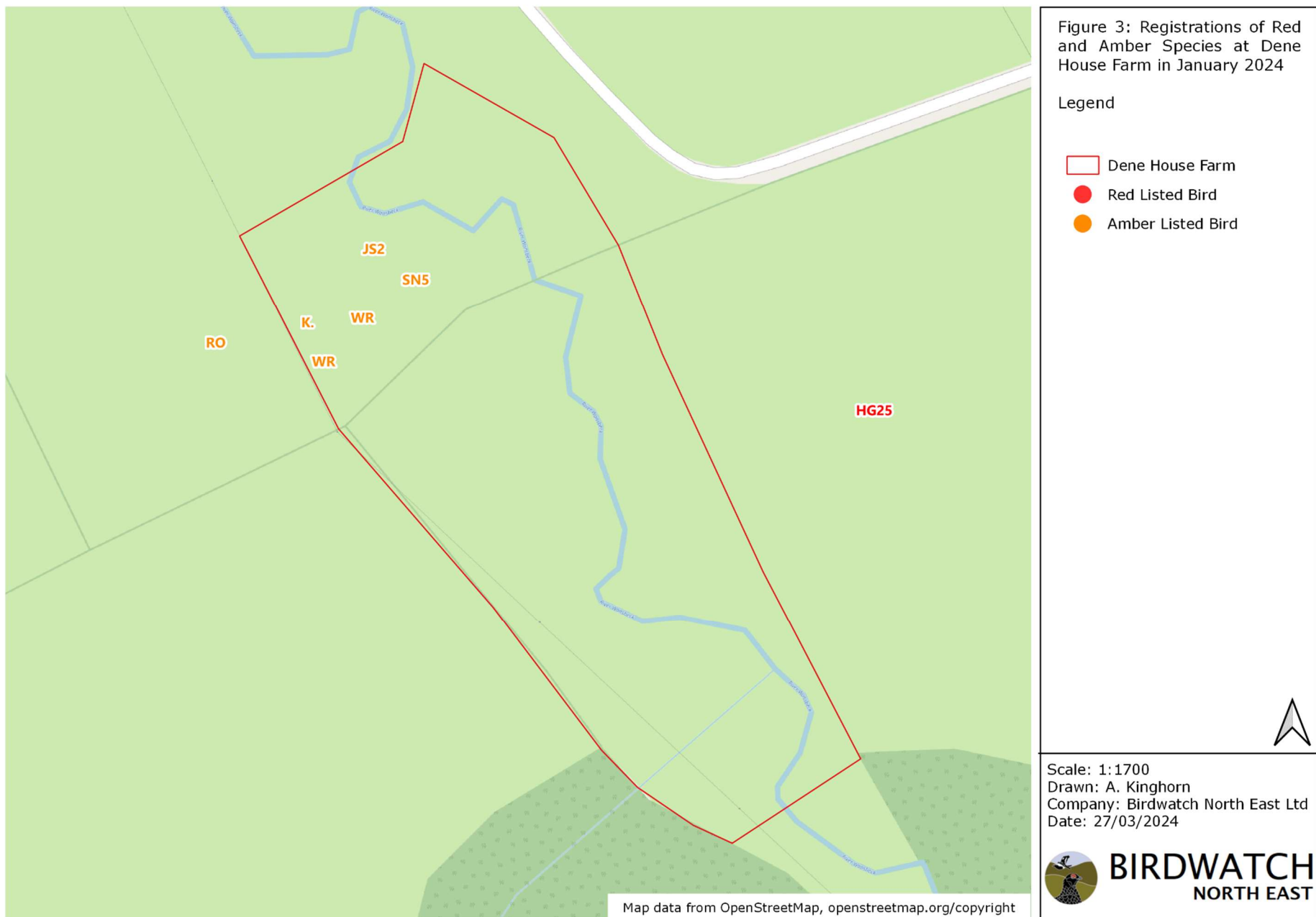
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- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:1700
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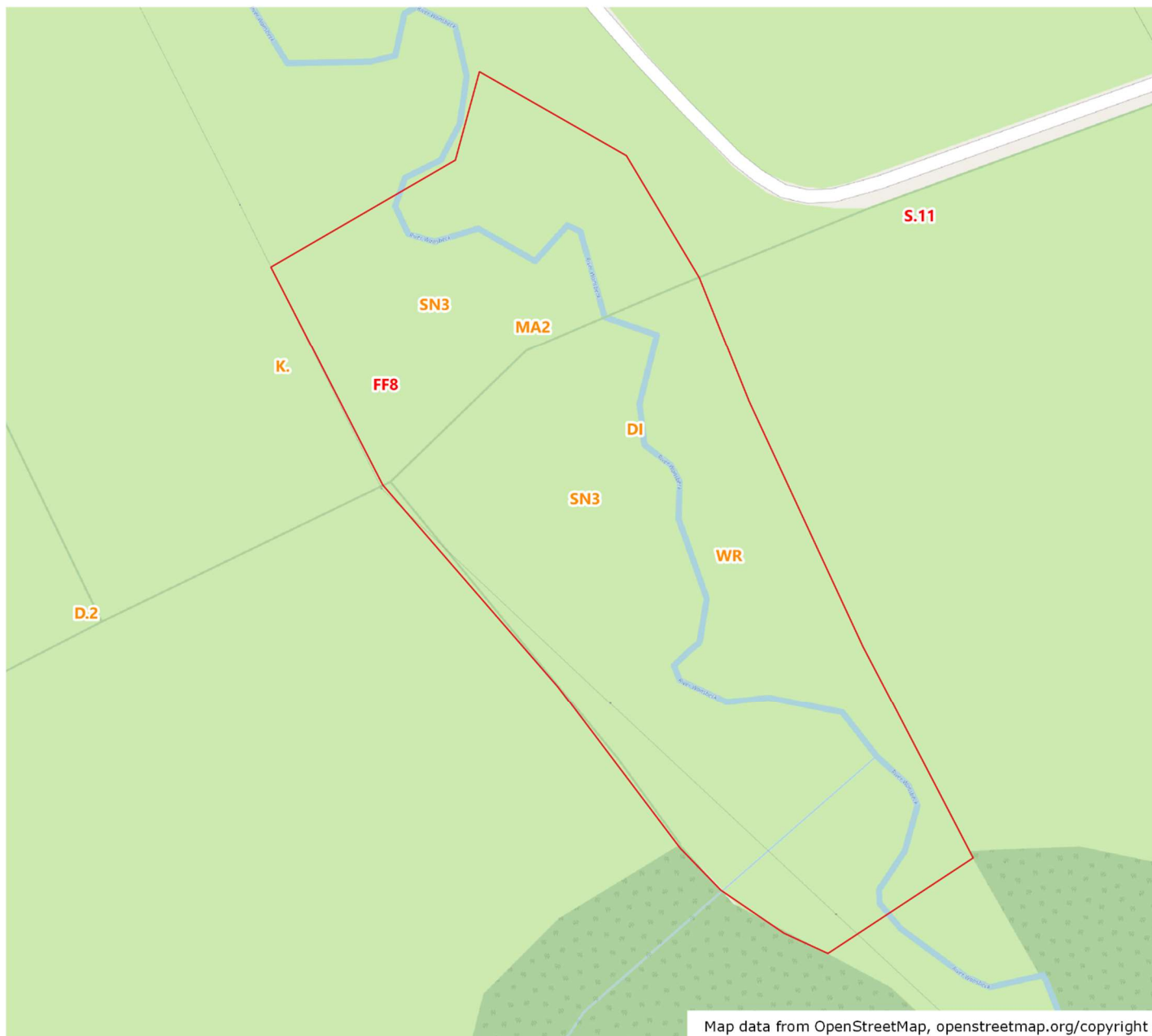


Figure 4: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in February 2024

Legend

- Dene House Farm
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:1700
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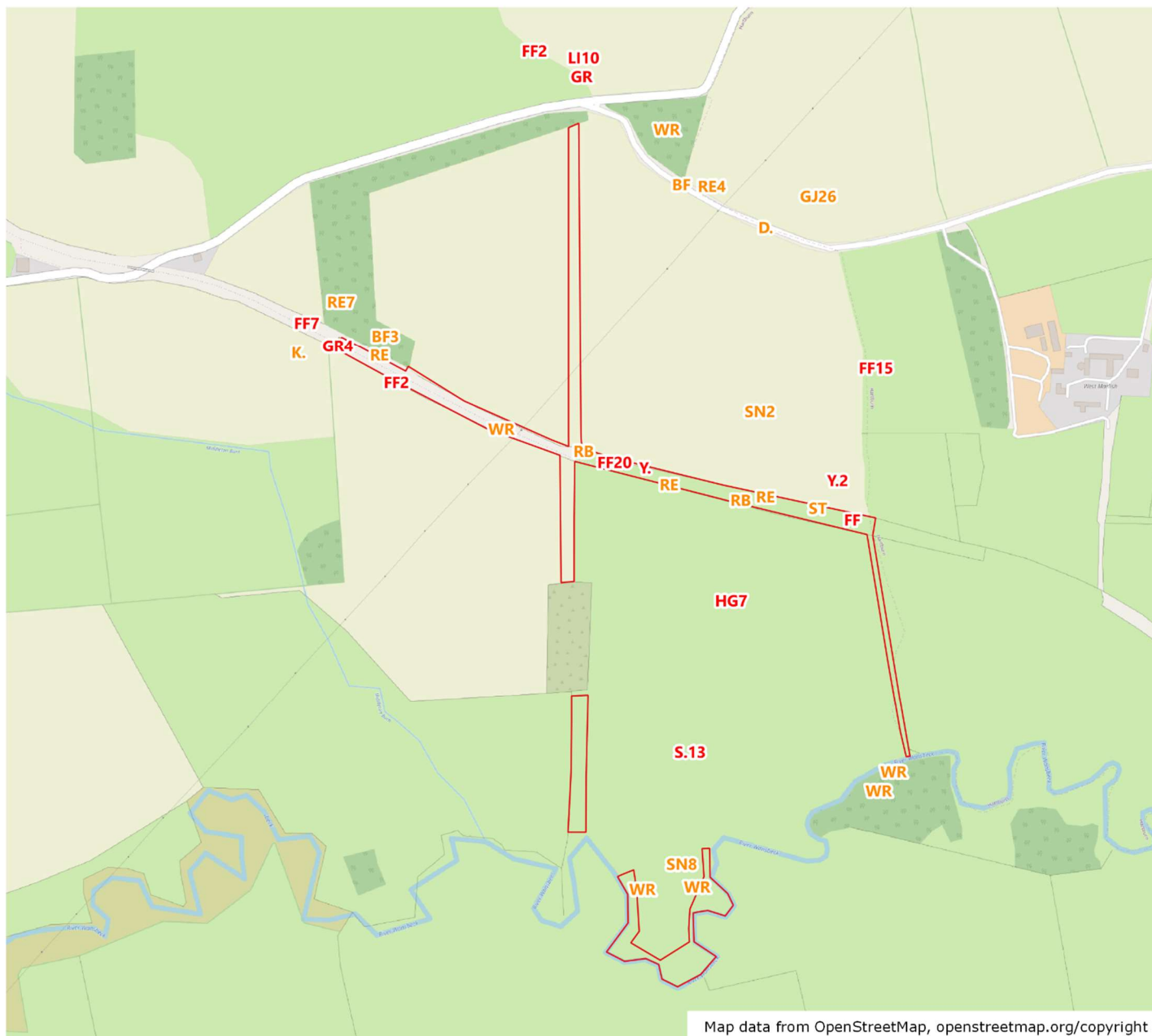


Figure 5: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in November 2023

Legend

- Middleton
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:7000
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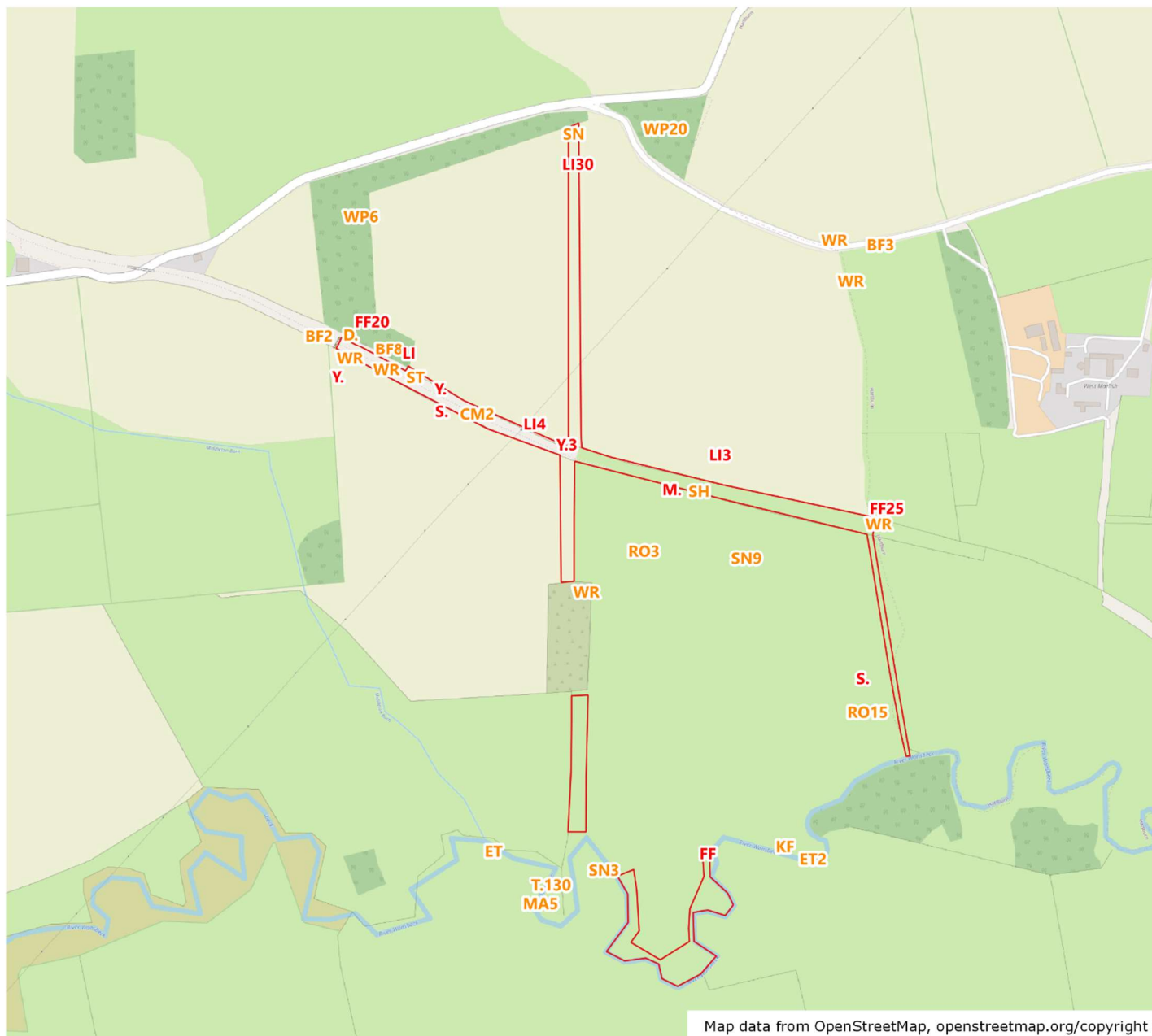


Figure 6: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in December 2023

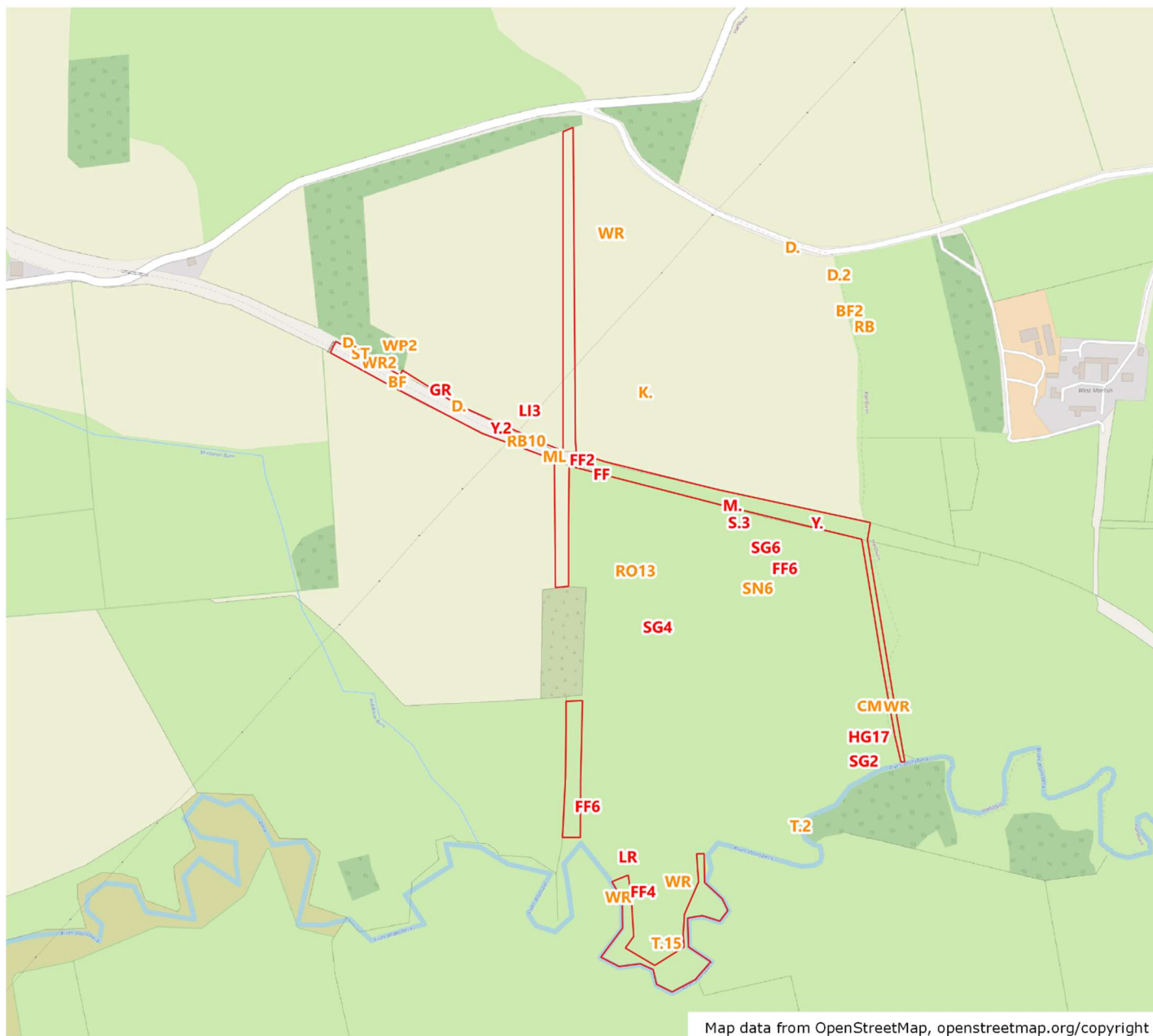
Legend

- Middleton
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird

Scale: 1:7000
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
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 Date: 27/03/2024



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Figure 7: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in January 2024

Legend

- Middleton
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



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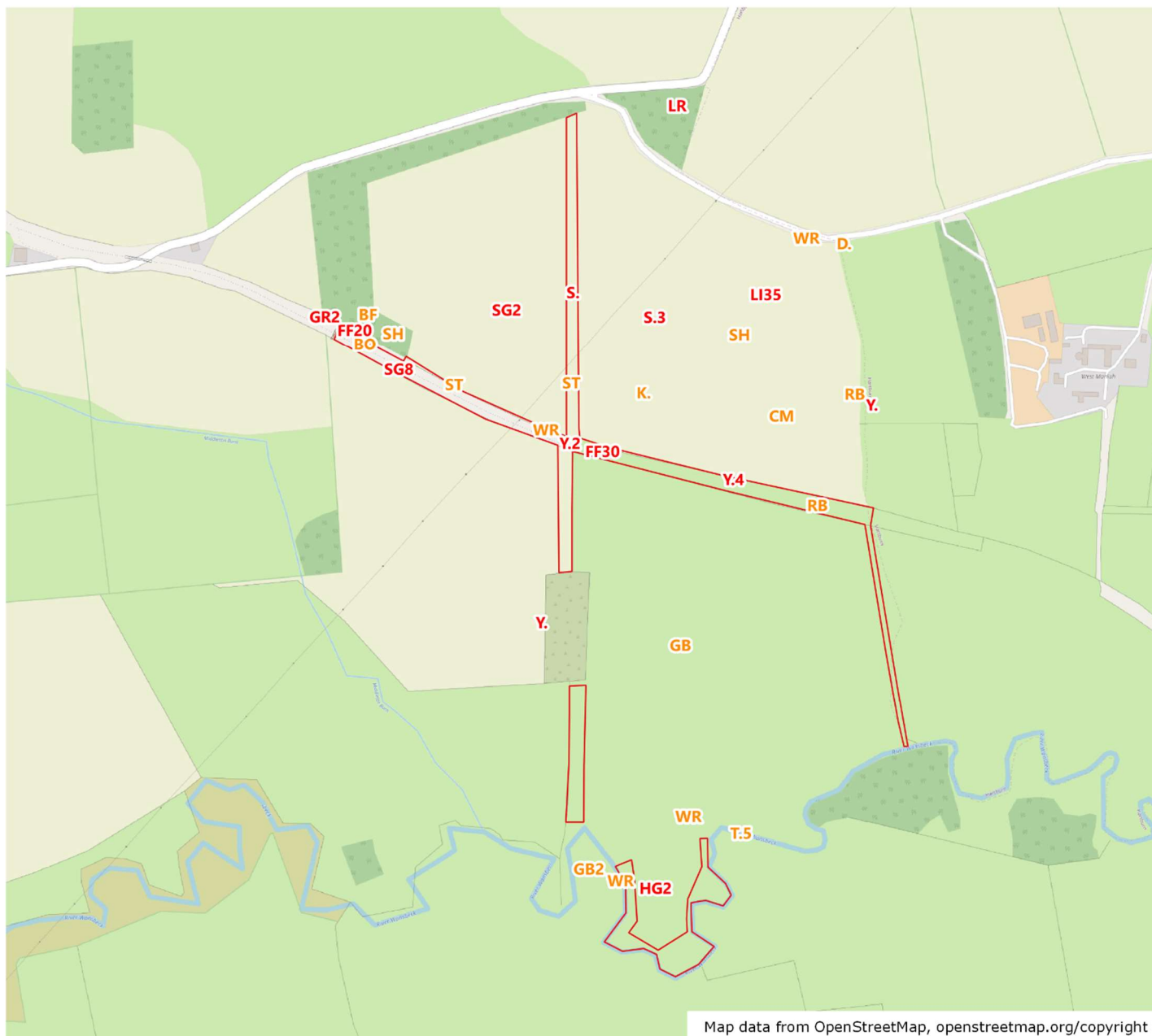


Figure 8: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in February 2024

Legend

- Middleton
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird

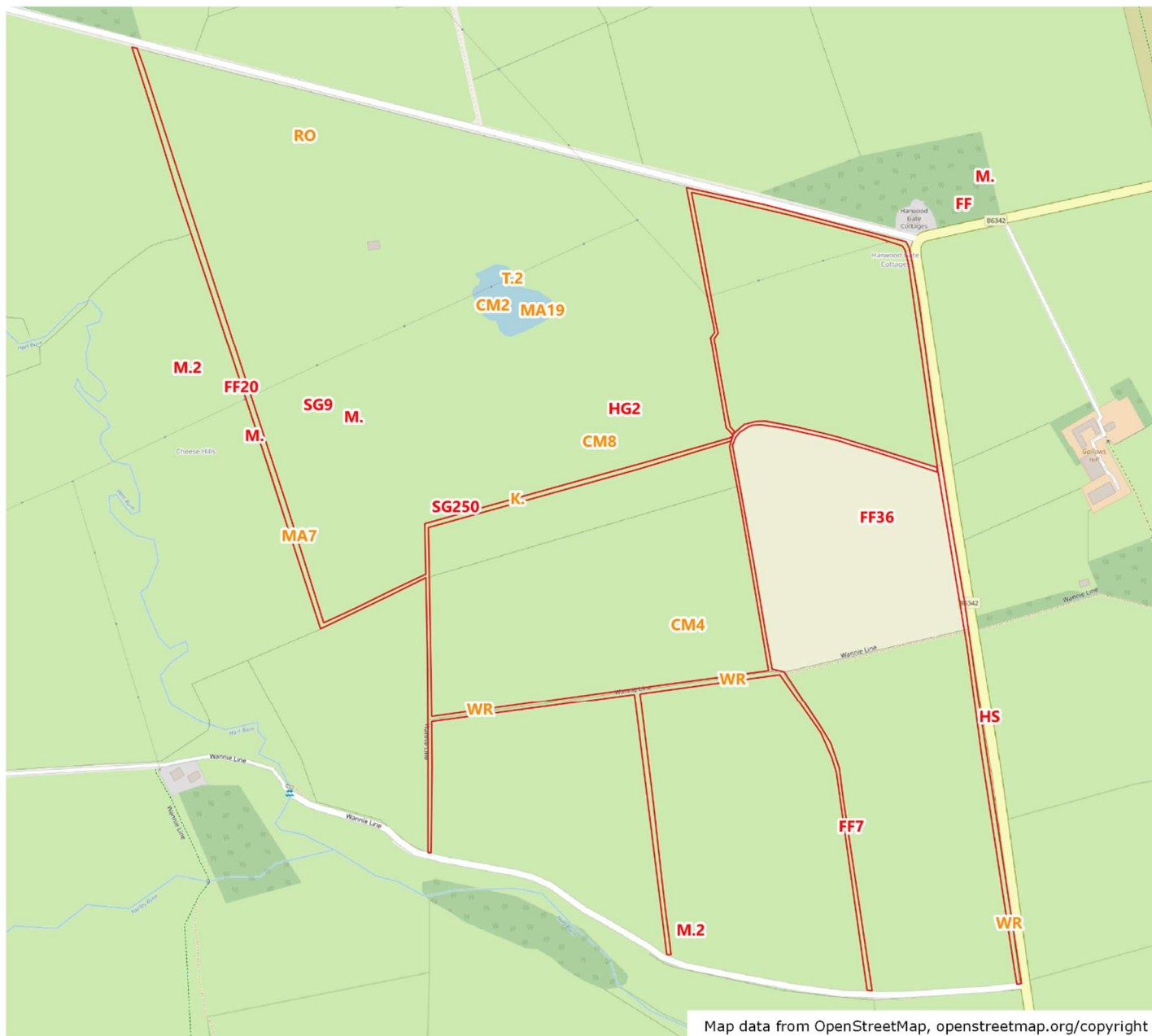


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Figure 9: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in November 2023

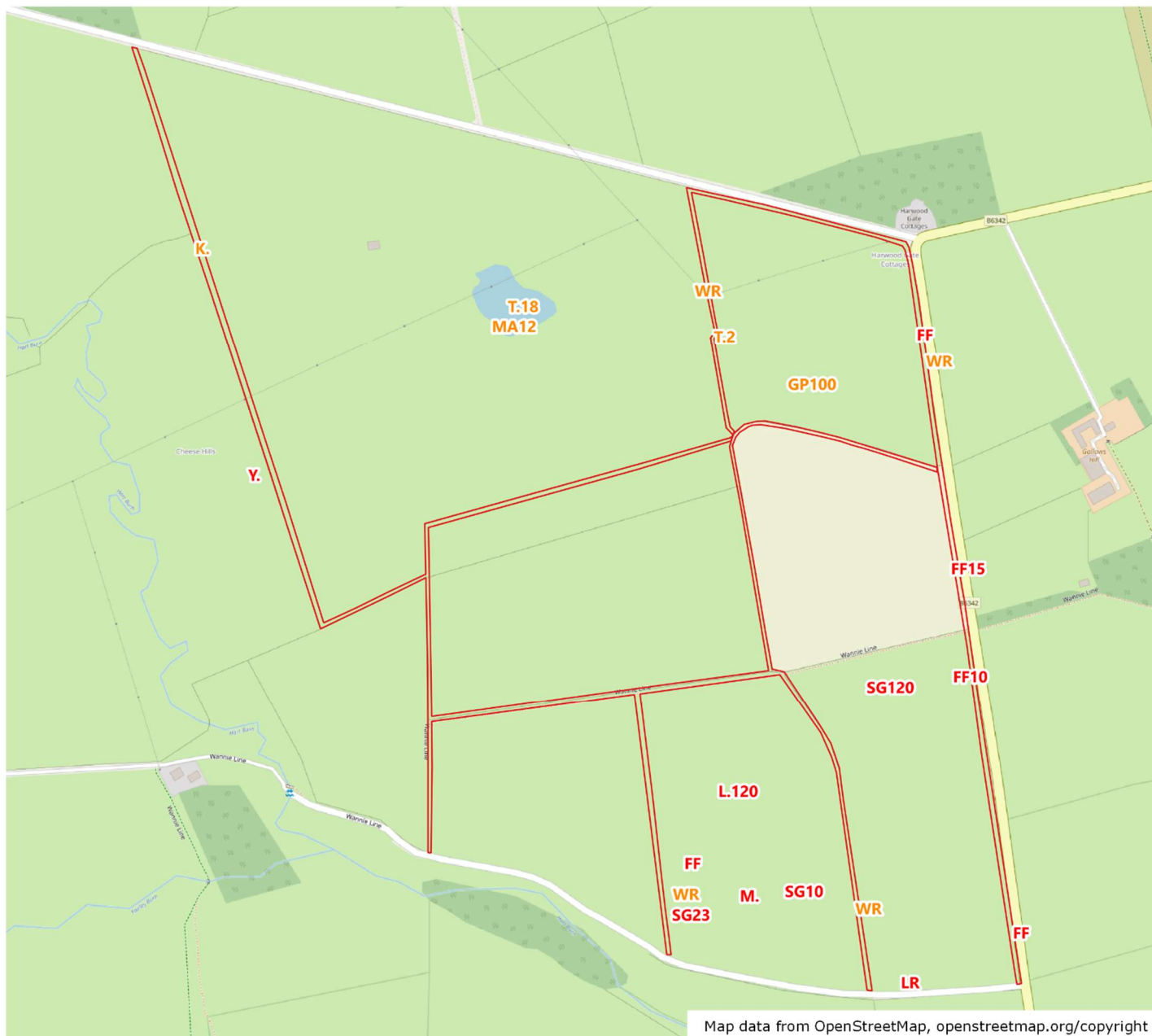
Legend

- Ralphshield
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird

Scale: 1:6000
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Figure 10: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in December 2023

Legend

- Ralphshield
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



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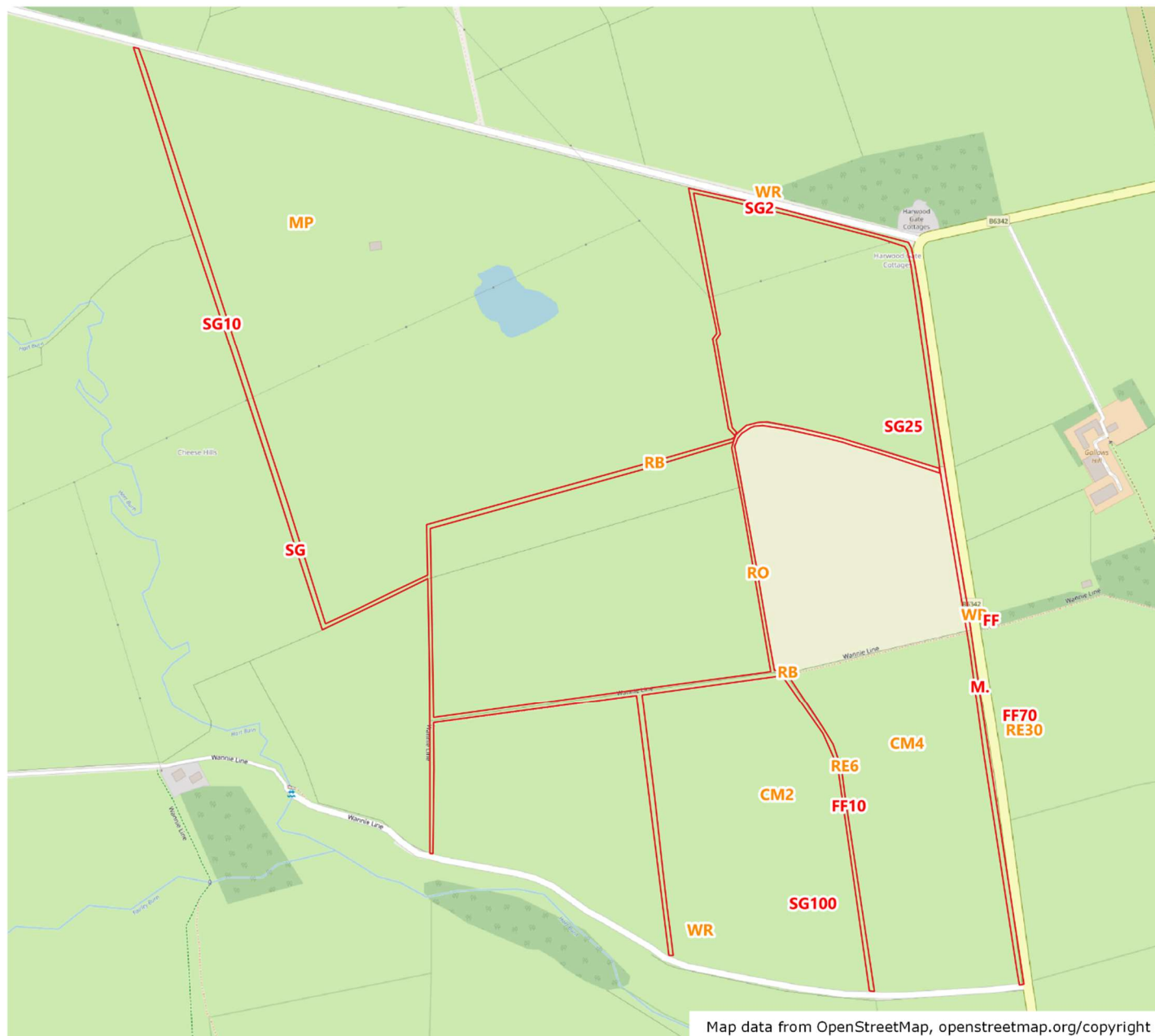


Figure 11: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in January 2024

Legend

- Ralphshield
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



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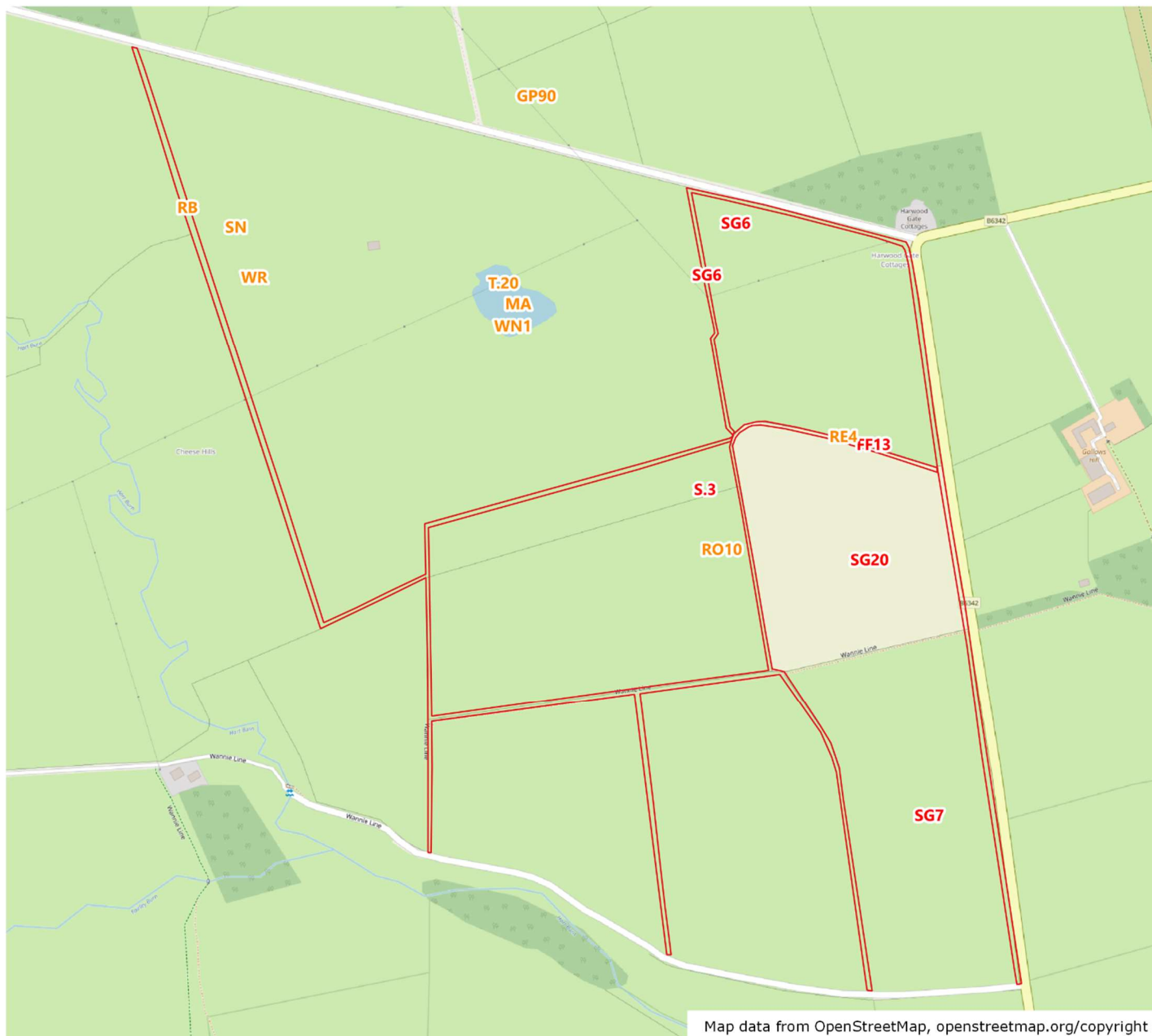


Figure 12: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in February 2024

Legend

- Ralphshield
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



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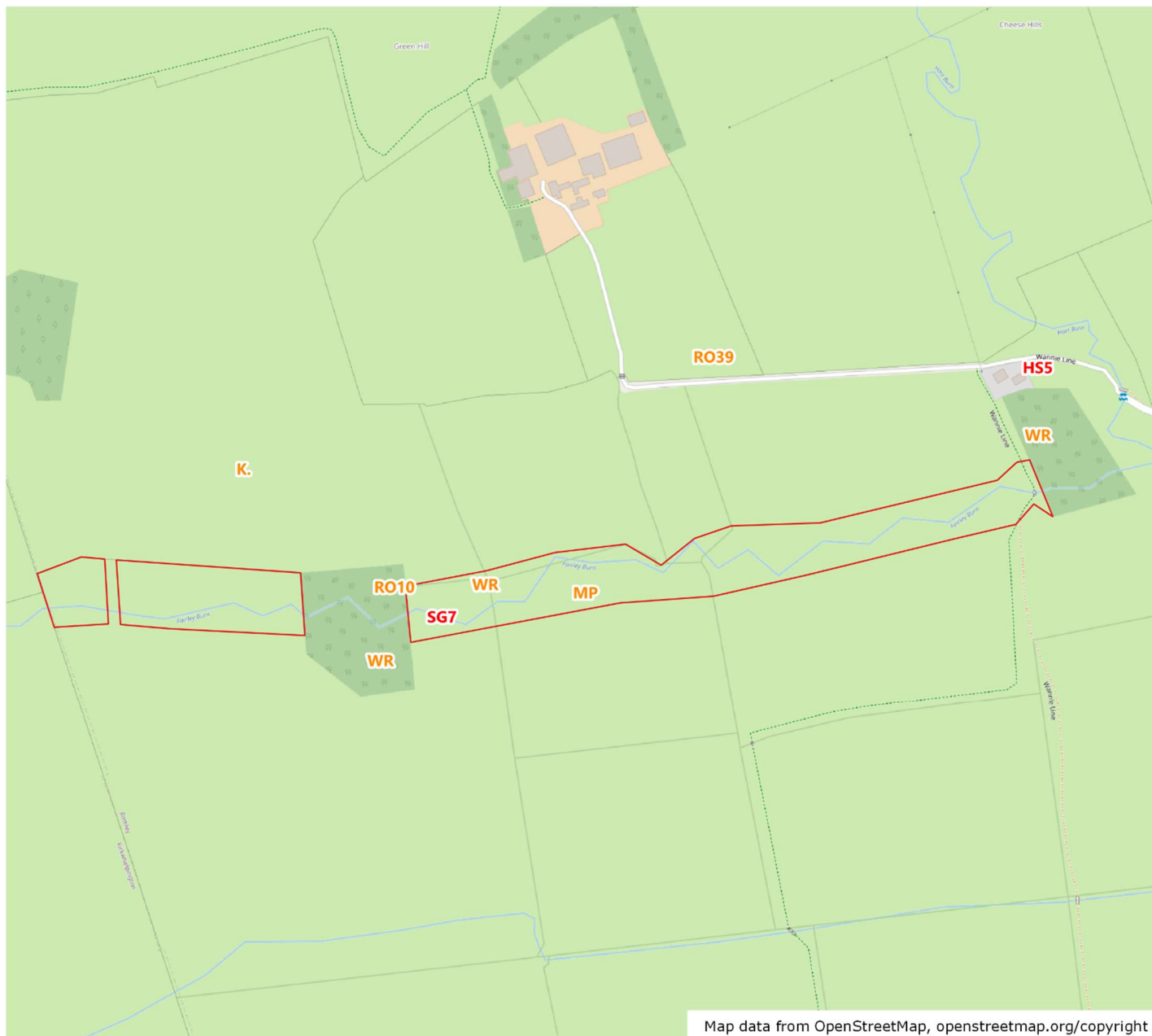


Figure 13: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairley in November 2023

Legend

- Fairley Farm
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



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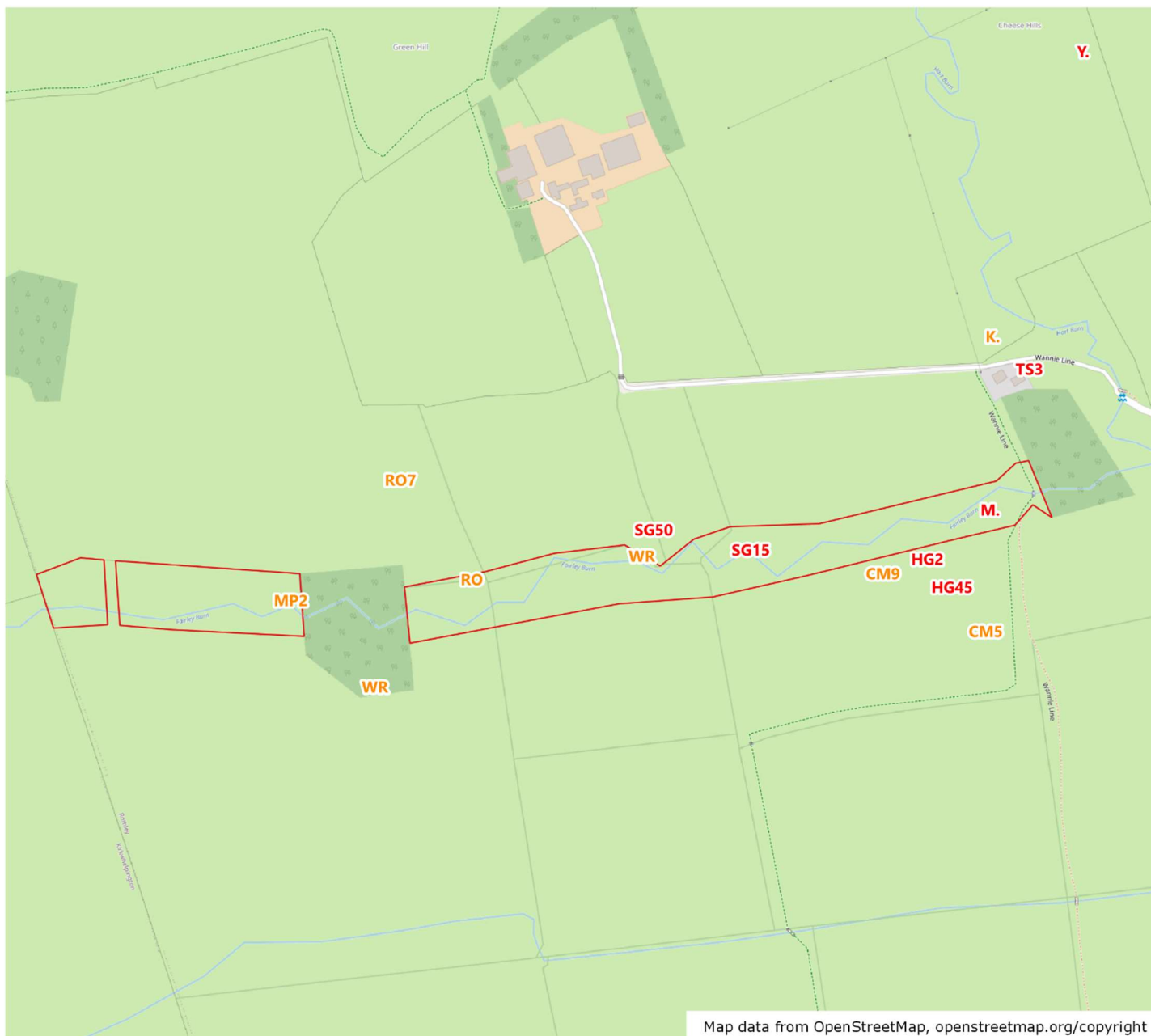


Figure 14: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairnley in December 2023

Legend

- Fairnley Farm
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



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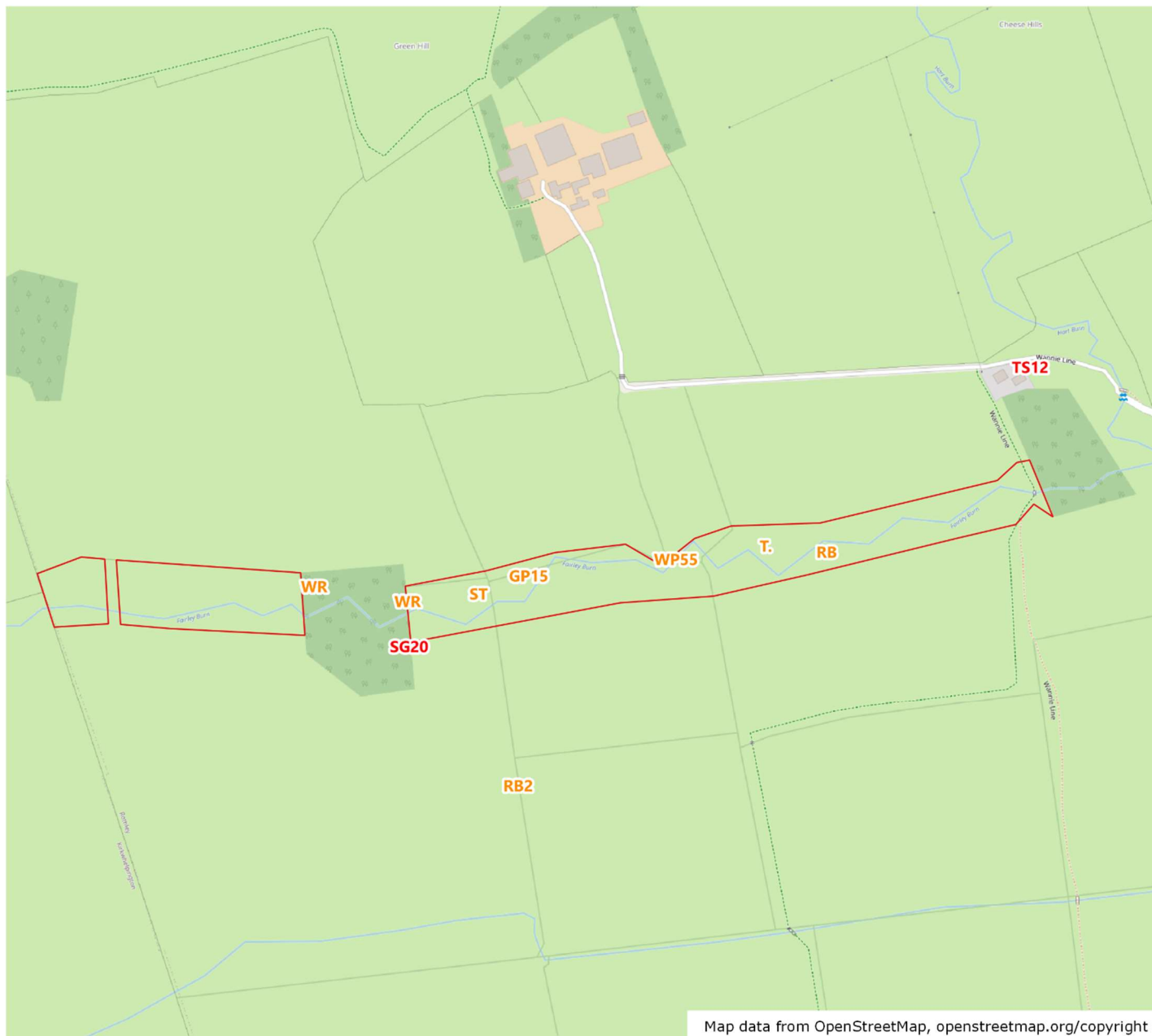


Figure 15: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairley in January 2024

Legend

- Fairley Farm
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:5500
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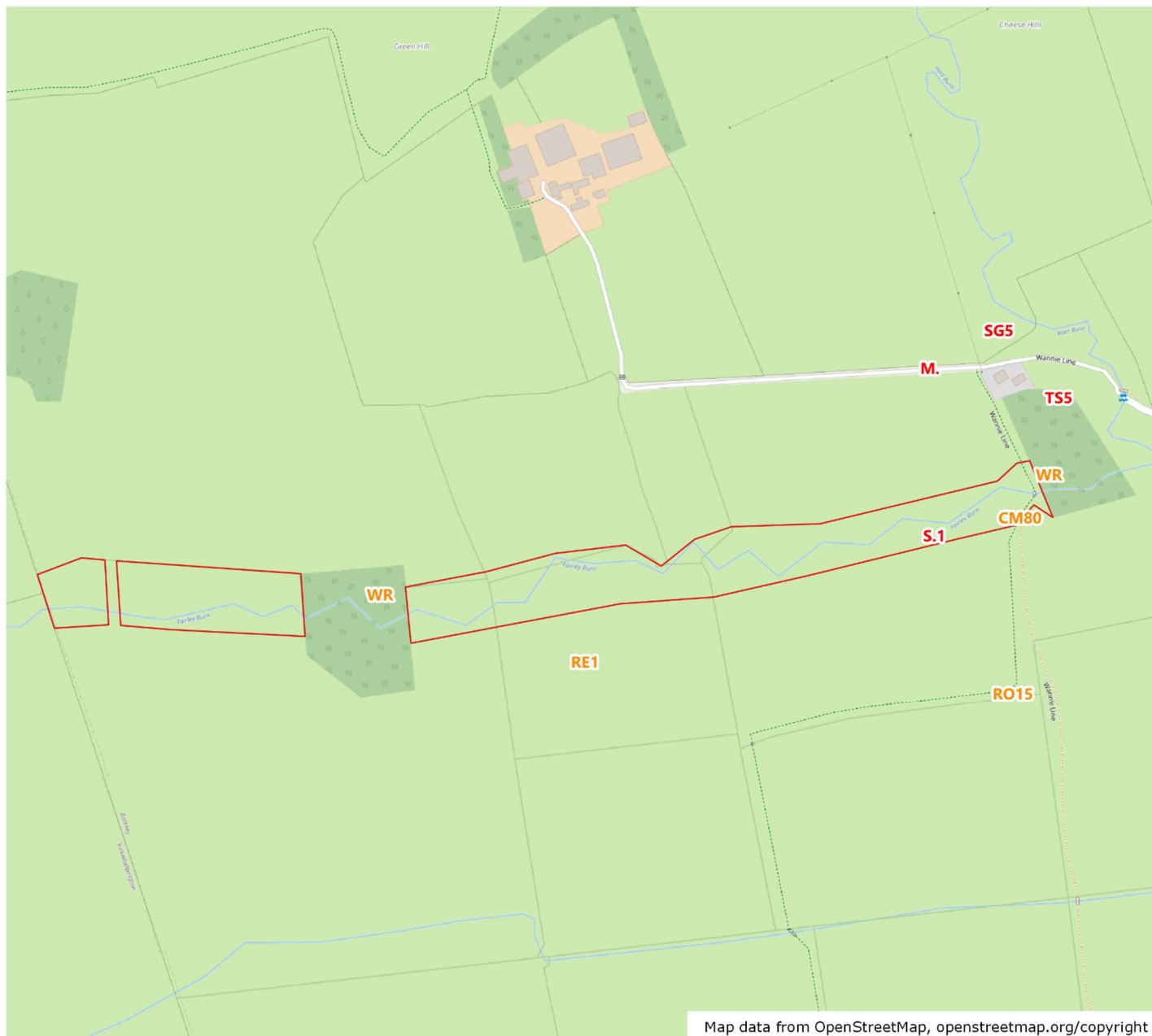


Figure 16: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairley in February 2024

Legend

- Fairley Farm
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:5500
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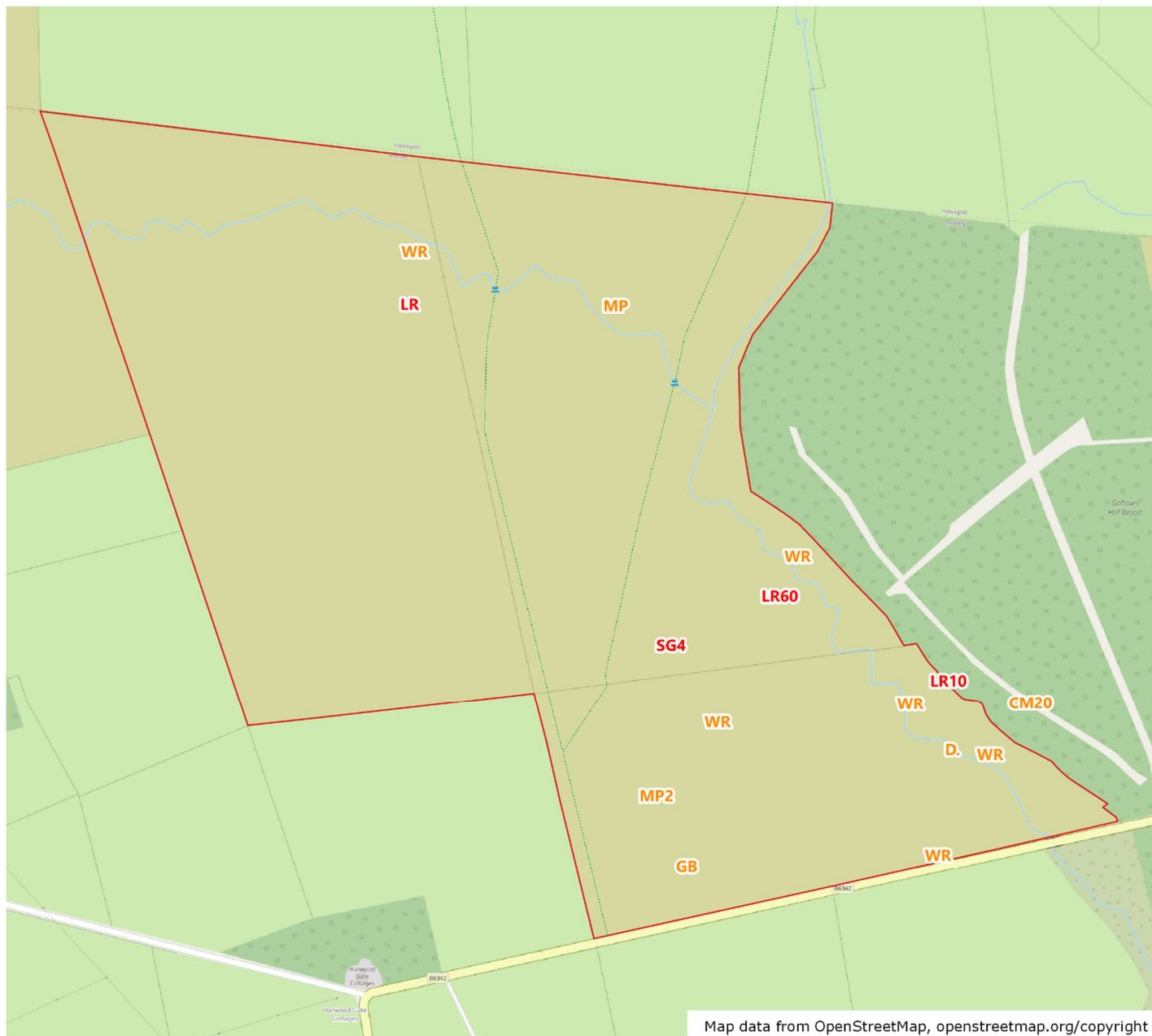


Figure 17: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in November 2023

Legend

- Gallows Hill North
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:6500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 27/03/2024



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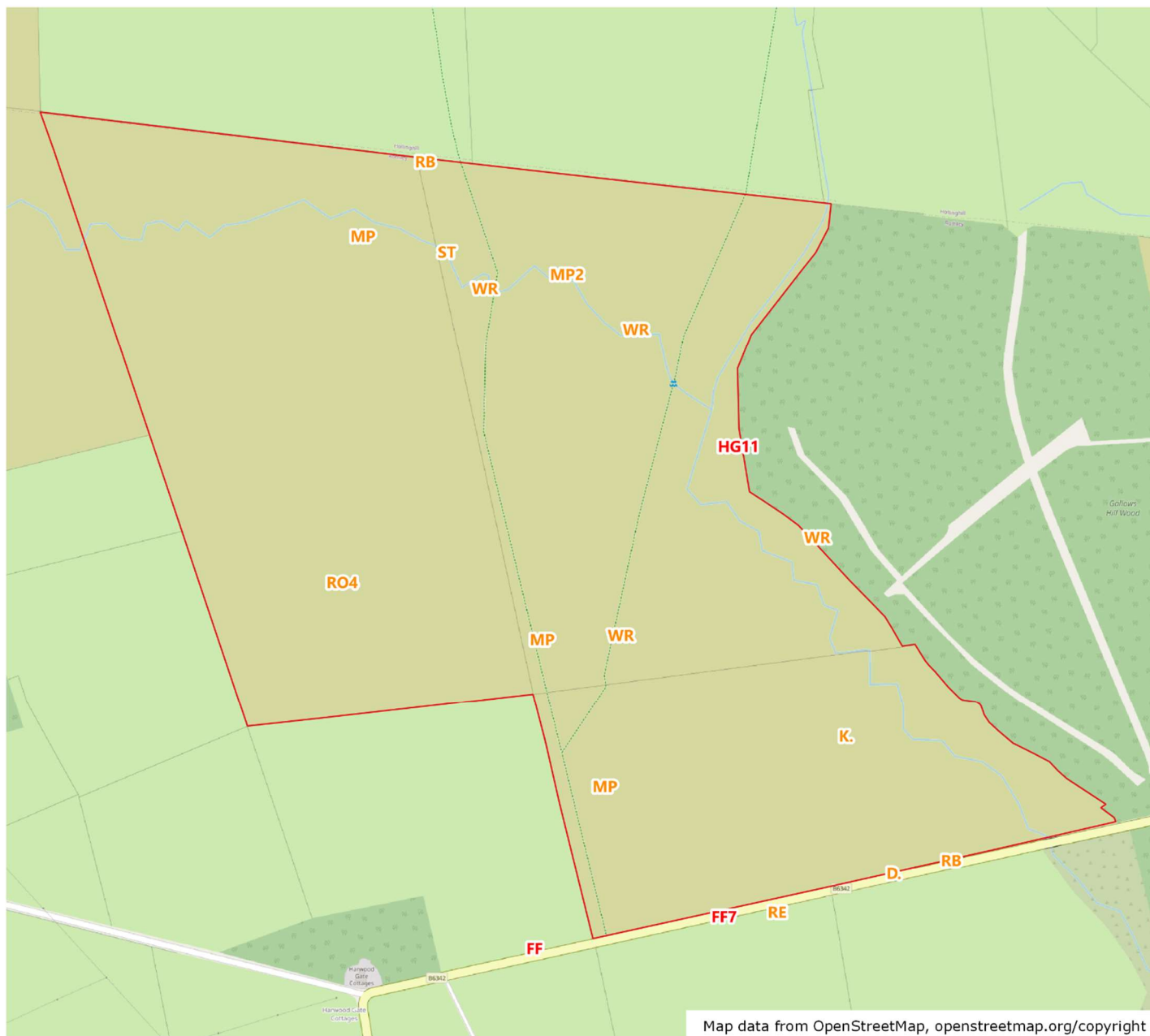


Figure 18: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in December 2023

Legend

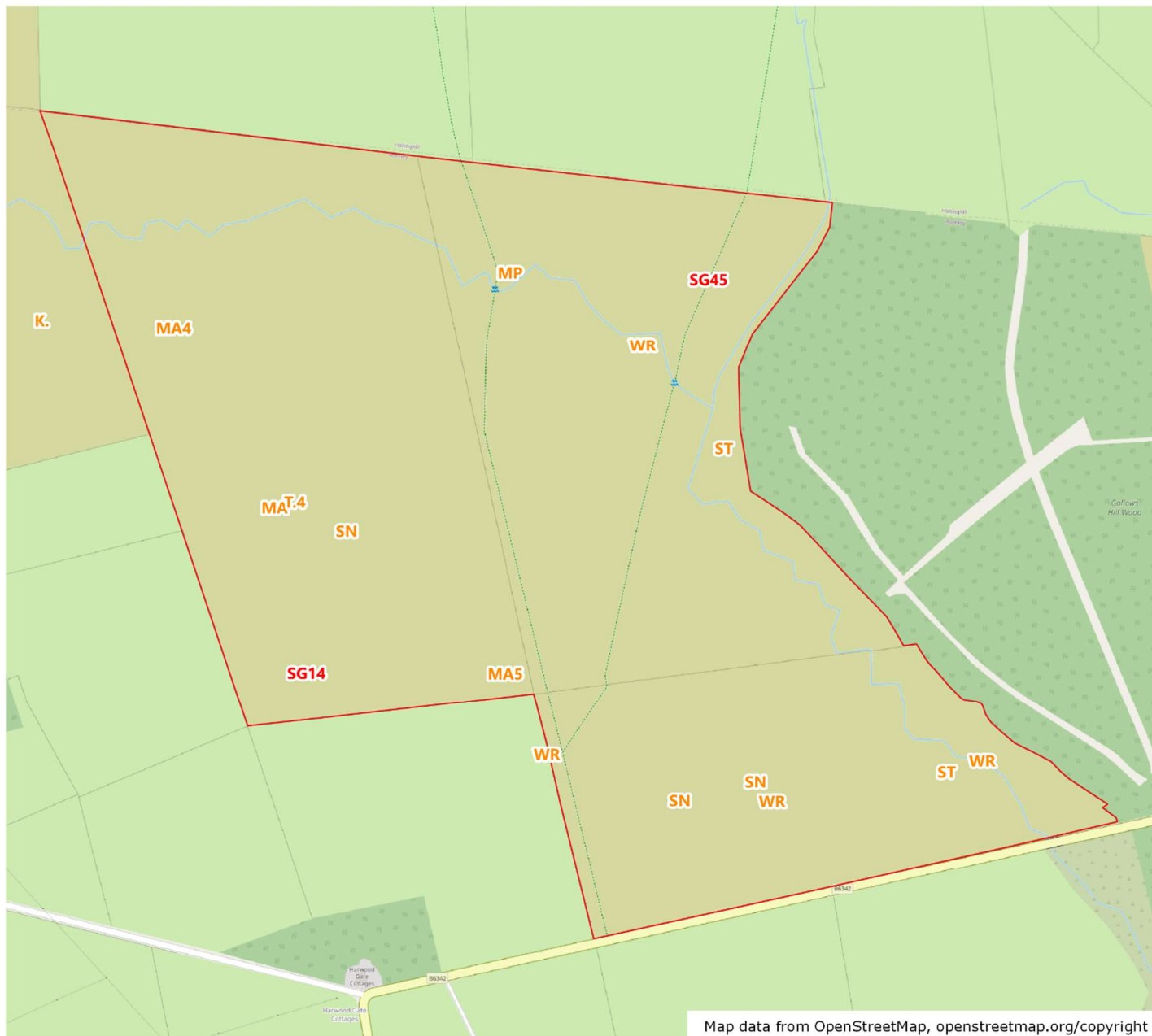
- Gallows Hill North
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:6500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 27/03/2024



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Figure 19: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in January 2024

Legend

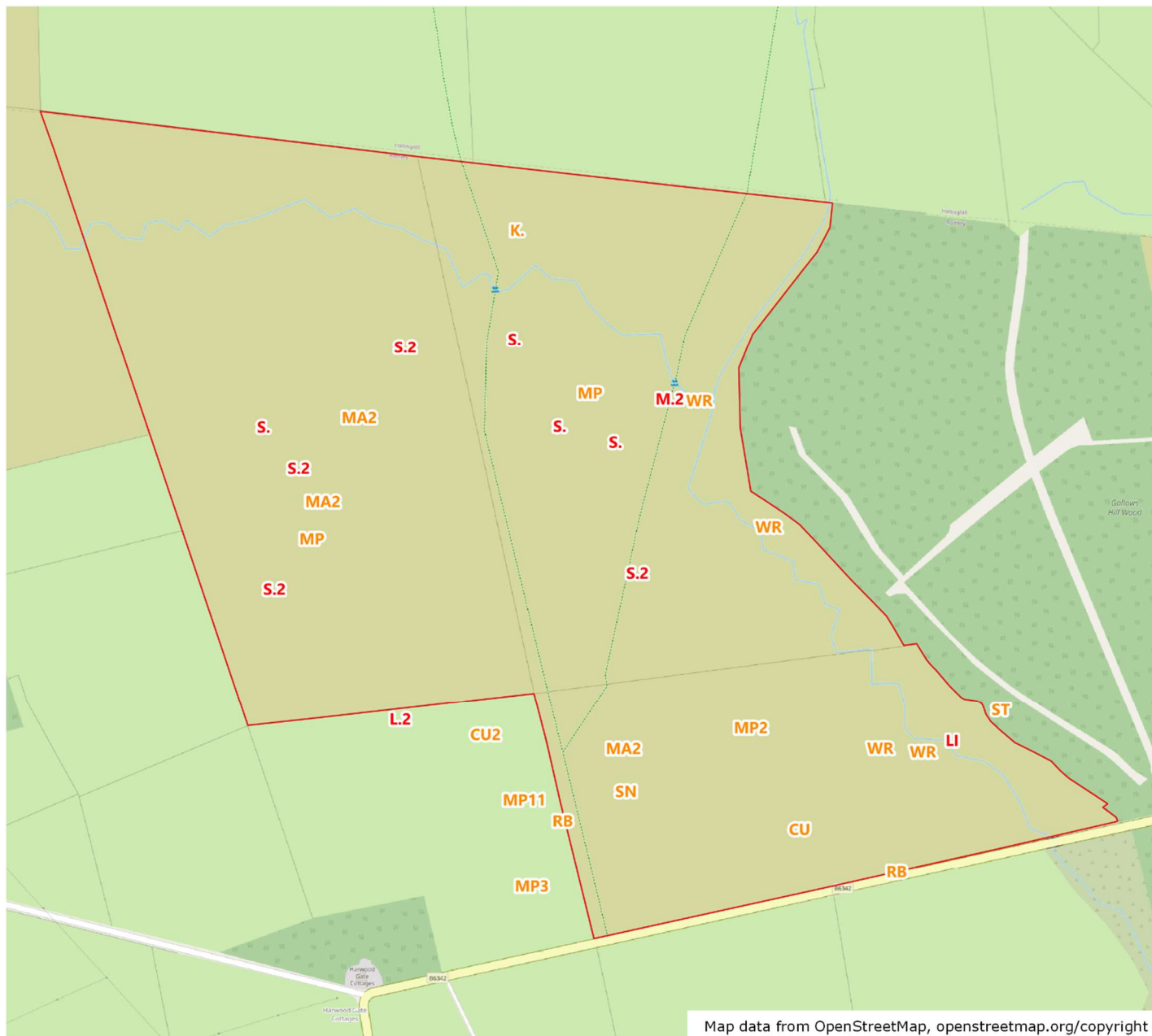
- Gallows Hill North
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:6500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 27/03/2024



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Figure 20: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in February 2024

Legend

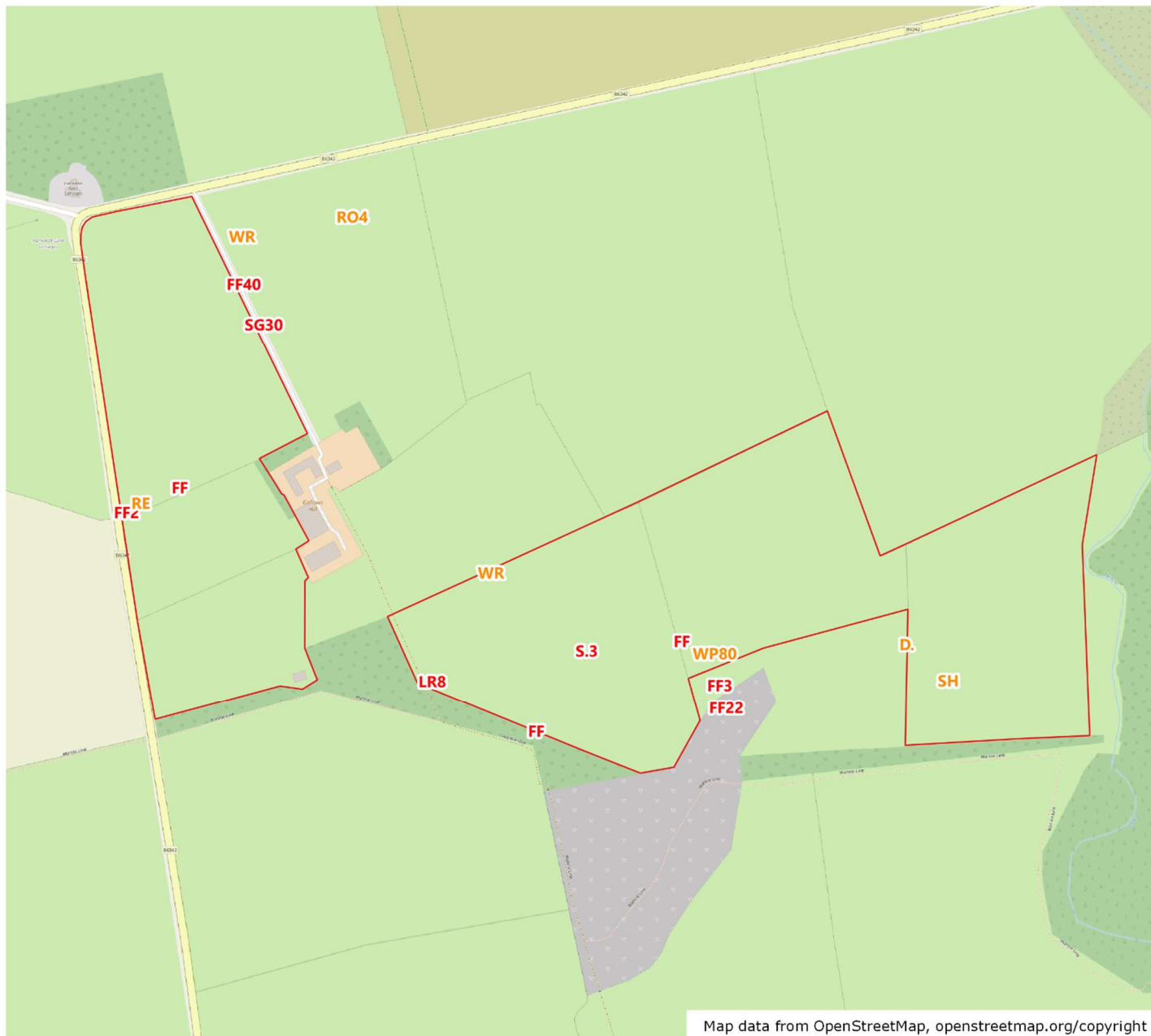
- Gallows Hill North
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:6500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 27/03/2024



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Figure 21: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in November 2023

Legend

- Gallows Hill South
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:4500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 27/03/2024



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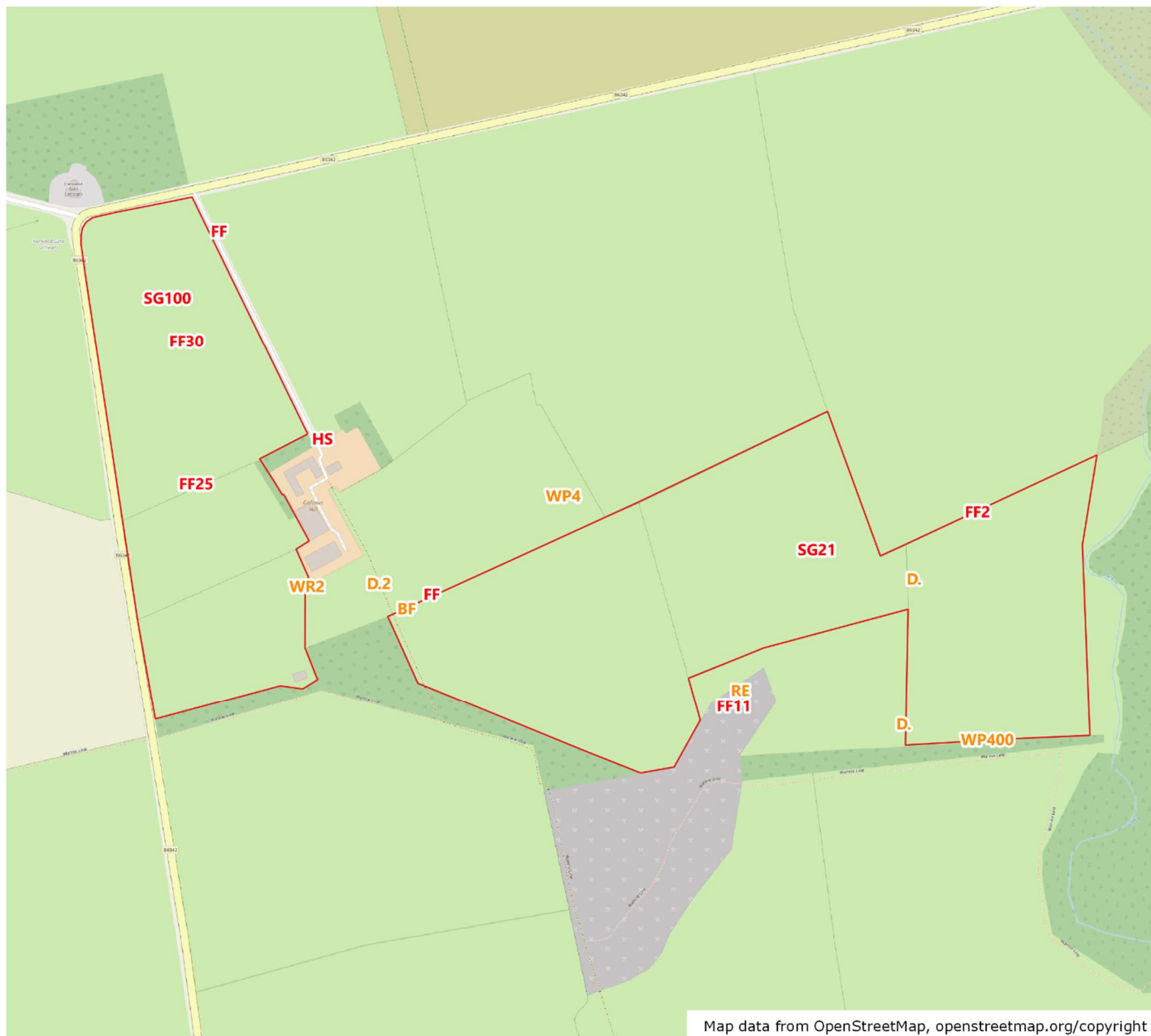


Figure 22: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in December 2023

Legend

- Gallows Hill South
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:4500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 27/03/2024



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Map data from OpenStreetMap, openstreetmap.org/copyright

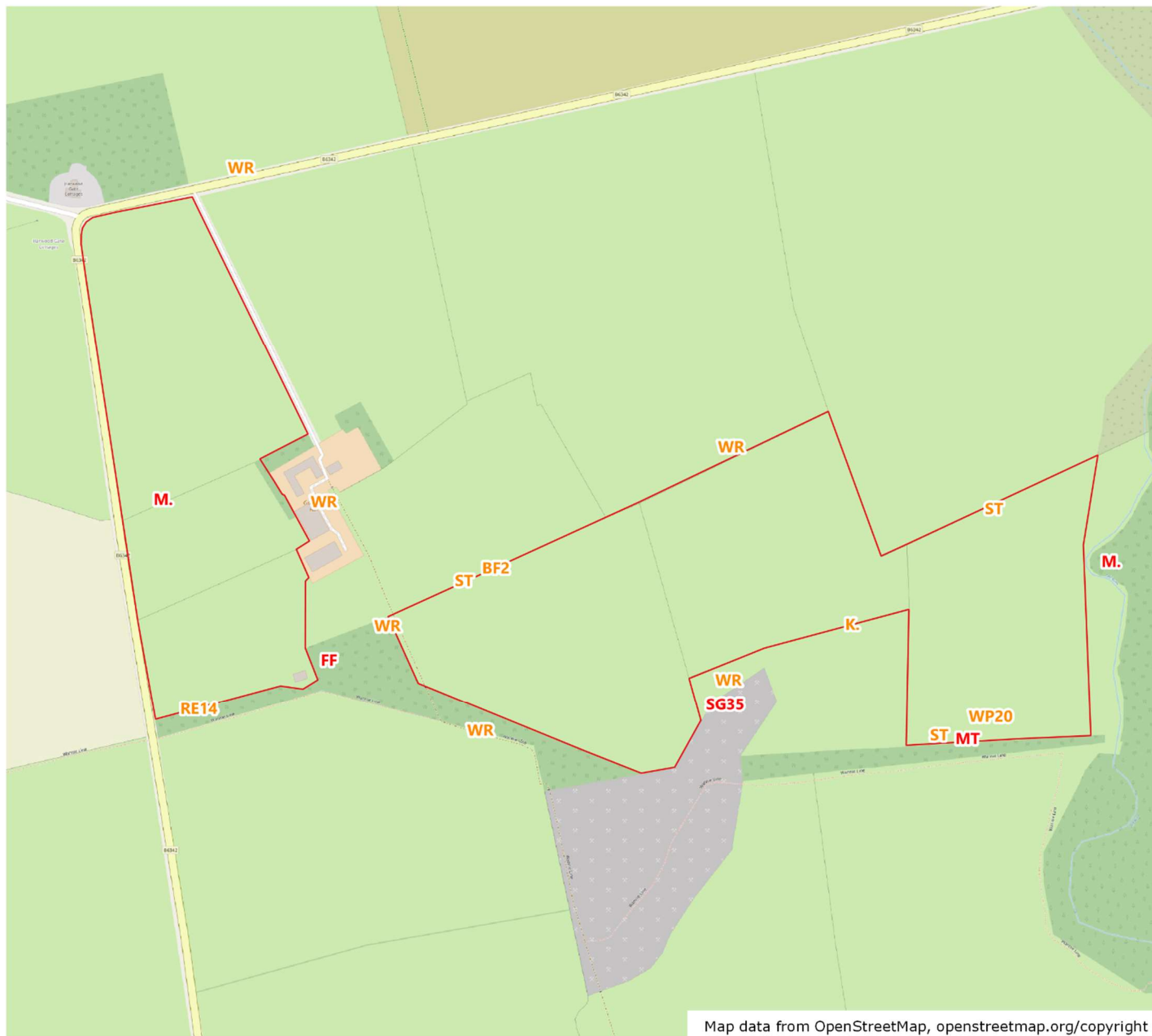


Figure 23: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in January 2024

Legend

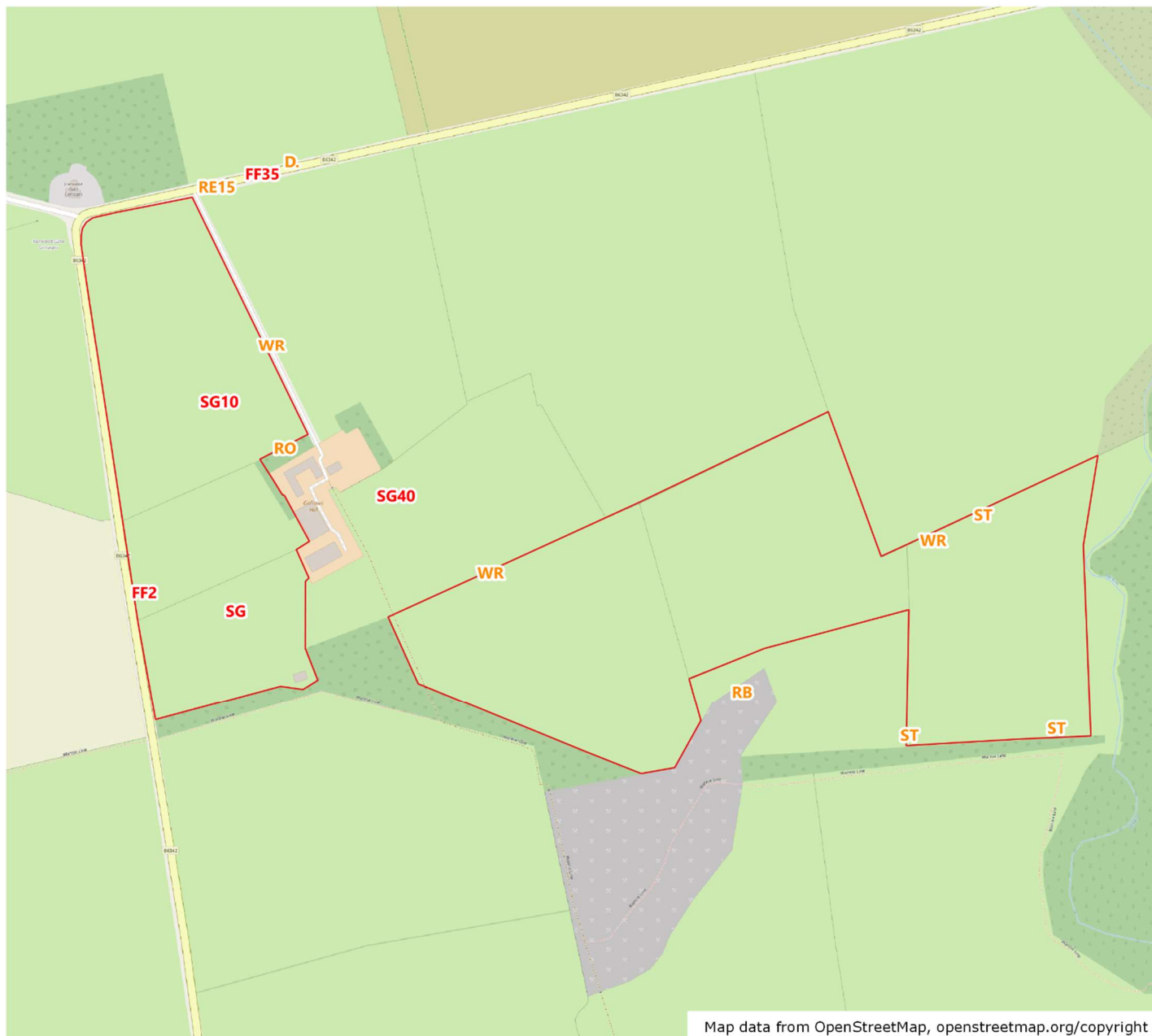
- Gallows Hill South
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:4500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 27/03/2024



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Map data from OpenStreetMap, [openstreetmap.org/copyright](https://openstreetmap.org/)

Figure 24: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in February 2024

Legend

- Gallows Hill South
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:4500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 27/03/2024



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