



BIRDWATCH NORTH EAST

Wintering Bird Surveys

Wansbeck Restoration for Climate Change (WRCC)



(Habitat at Dene House Farm, January 2024 - © Andrew Kinghorn)



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Commission

- 1.1.1 Birdwatch North East Ltd was commissioned by Groundwork in October 2024 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 2024 to February 2025. 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 (ACIEEM), an experienced ornithologist with over 19 years of field experience in bird identification, 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 direction and speed (mph)	Visibility	Precipitation & Comments
Dene House Farm	01/11/2024	0735-0835	9	100	SE4	>2km	None
Fairnley Farm	01/11/2024	1015-1130	11	100	WNW14	>2km	None
Ralphshield	01/11/2024	0845-1015	10	60	WNW14	>2KM	None
Middleton	04/11/2024	1200-1345	11	100	SSE4	>2km	None
Gallows Hill	05/11/2024	1110-1340	9	100	WSW4	2km	Misty

Dene House Farm	03/12/2024	1130-1230	4	100	S4	>2km	None
Middleton	03/12/2024	0945-1115	1	100	W4	>2km	None
Fairnley Farm	09/12/2024	1230-1400	8	50	NNE10	>2km	None
Ralphshield	09/12/2024	1400-1530	8	100	NNE9	>2km	None
Gallows Hill	11/12/2024	0915-1215	3	100	WMW3	>2km	None
Middleton	07/01/2025	1200-1330	2	0	W15	>2km	None, but frozen ground
Dene House Farm	07/01/2025	1345-1445	2	0	W14	>2km	None, lots of frozen ground, some wet areas remain
Ralphshield	09/01/2025	0915-1100	-4	10	WNW12	>2km	None, but ground 90% frozen
Fairnley Farm	09/01/2025	1100-1215	-2	50	WNW13	>2km	None, but completely frozen ground aside from stream
Gallows Hill	14/01/2025	0920-1150	10	60	W12	>2km	None
Dene House Farm	04/02/2025	1045-1145	10	100	SSW21	>2km	None
Middleton	04/02/2025	1200-1315	10	100	SW21	>2km	Brief light showers
Fairnley Farm	07/02/2025	1245-1400	6	100	E14	>2km	None, tree planters on site potentially a disturbance
Ralphshield	07/02/2025	1400-1515	6	100	E26	>2km	Brief light showers
Gallows Hill	08/02/2025	1220-1450	4	100	ENE6	>2km	Brief intermittent showers, mostly light

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 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 61 species were recorded on the walked transects, many of these were interacting with the site boundaries or buffer zones. A total of 31 were birds of conservation concern, sitting on either the red (13 species) or amber list (18 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 are preceded (where applicable) 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	1		1	Present.
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber	1		1		Primarily associating with site boundary.
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber	1				One flew over.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	1			1	Two recorded.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green	1				Flyover.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	20	5	1		Common and widespread species.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	2	1			Present during first half of the winter only.
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber				1	Roaming species that tends to feed in sheep pasture.
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Green	1			1	Noted on two visits only.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber	1				Likely not wintering on site.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red			3		Nomadic species.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green	2				Likely not wintering on the site.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	1				Likely not wintering on the site.
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red	1				Likely not wintering on the site.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green	1			1	Using the site for wintering foraging opportunities.
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red	1	1			Flyovers.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green	20	12			Using the site for foraging opportunities.
Jack Snipe	<i>Limnocryptes minimus</i>	Green				2	Noted on one visit only, a hard to locate species that was only

							detected with the aid of thermal imaging camera.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber	1				Flyover.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red	1				Likely not wintering on the site.
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Green		1			Using the site for foraging opportunities.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red	1			2	Present on two visits, can be quite nomadic and quiet over mid-winter.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	2				Present in November only.
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green	1				Noted in November only, lack of suitable trees on site will mean that will be unlikely to change.
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	No Status	7				Noted in November only, perhaps displaced later in the winter.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	1	1	1		Wintering on site and only not noted during February.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber	1				Noted in November only, suggesting not wintering on the site.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber		2	9		Wintering on the site and noted on two visits.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	59	46			Noted on two dates only.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green				1	Noted during February only.
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber	4	5	3	5	Wintering on the site, using the wet areas when frost free.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber		2			Using wet areas on the site.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	4	1	3	2	Wintering on the site, can be quite quiet.

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	9	6	2	1	Numbers dropped as winter progressed.
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber	4	1	1		Present on three of four visits.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	10			1	Present on two visits.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green	1	4	2	2	Present on four visits.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	18		3	1	Numbers dropped as the winter progressed, this is a nomadic species in the non-breeding season.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	11	4	1		Numbers dropped as the winter progressed.
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber		9			Present in December only. A nomadic wintering species seeking sheep pasture.
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	1	1	2		Low numbers present in the winter.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber			2		Present in January only.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red		5	7	1	A nomadic wintering species seeking pasture and berries for foraging opportunities.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green	1	1	1		Present on the first three visits and only lacking on the fourth.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	1	16	2		Present on three of the four visits, with inflated numbers in December.
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red			1		Noted in January only.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green		1			Noted on visit only.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green		1	1		Noted on two visits, always associating with the Wansbeck.

Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red	60	14		2	Present on three dates.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green	4	14			Noted on two visits only.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red			18		Good numbers on one date only. A wintering flock.
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red			1		Flyover, heard calling.
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Green	1				Noted on one date only during early winter.
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green	11				Flock noted in November.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red		2			Present in December.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber	2		3		Present on two of the four visits.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	1	1			Present on two visits.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber			6		Present in January.
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Green	1				Present in November only.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	3	2	1		Wintering on site in low numbers.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber	1	3	6	5	Present on the site in varying numbers, with numbers seeming to increase as the winter moved on.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber	30		1		Present in varying numbers, a nomadic species seeking foraging opportunities.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Green	2				Flyovers on November.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber			2		Present on one visit only.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red				1	The February registration will almost certainly pertain to a returning breeding bird.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green	1		1	1	Present on site throughout the winter.

Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	85	40	64	40	Good numbers wintering on site and the immediate surrounds.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green			2		Two birds flew over the site.
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber		2	2		Present on at least two visits, this can be a hard species to survey in winter. So, it may have been present on two other visits.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber	2		1		Present on two visits.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber		4	3		Using the Wansbeck River.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	1			1	Present on two visits only.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	5	6	5	2	Wintering on the site, with less noted in February.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red		1		11	Numbers in February could be early returning breeding birds.

Table 3.3: Species recorded during surveys at Fairley.

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		2	3	1	Present.
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber				1	Single bird in February could pertain to returning breeding bird.
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Green				1	Single bird in private garden.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	3	5			Present over first half of the winter.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	3	1	10	6	Mostly foraging on sheep pasture.
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green	1				Noted on one visit only.

Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green		30	40	4	Numbers primarily boosted by nearby cottage feeding birds in their garden.
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Green	1	1		1	Flyovers.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber	1				Present in November only.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green		1	1	1	At least one present throughout the winter.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green		1			Present.
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red		1			Single bird noted in December only.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green			2		Noted in January only.
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red		1	1		Present in low numbers.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green	10			4	Primarily associated with sheep pasture.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber		1			Flyover.
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Green	1				Single present on river during November visit.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	1	1	3	2	Present in varying numbers.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	2				Associating with site itself for presumed foraging opportunities.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber		1			Present in December only.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber		1			Single bird in December only.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber		36	4		Often associating with sheep pasture.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	25		35		Present on two of four visits, commutes widely in the area.
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber				1	Flew over the site boundary, likely looking for prey items.

Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber			1		Present during January visit only.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber	2				Present during Novembers visit.
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Red	6	5		8	Present around the cottage on the edge of the site boundary throughout the winter.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	1	2	3		Present on every visit apart from February.

Table 3.4: Species recorded during surveys at Ralphshield.

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	1	3		Numbers appear to have peaked in January which could be associated with snow cover.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green			1	1	Present over latter half of the winter.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green			1	2	Present over latter half of the winter.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	4	8	7	5	Present in varying numbers across the winter.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green			1	1	Present in January and February only.
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber		1			Flyover in November.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red		36	5	10	Numbers varied throughout the winter, but appear to be using the site boundary and buffer for foraging opportunities.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green	1		1		Present on two visits.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	2	1			Present over the first half of the winter.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green	1				Flyover in November.

Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red		12			Present during December visit only. A gregarious species, particularly during the winter.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Green	8	3	8		Numbers varied throughout the winter.
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green		1			Present during December visit only.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber	1				Flyover in November.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red			1		Present in December, likely displaced from elsewhere in Northumberland due to snow cover.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red	1	2	1		Birds present over most of the winter.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber	4	14		2	Present in varying numbers, most registrations coming from the pond visible from the transect route.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	1	1		2	Present over most visits.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	1				Only noted during November visit.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green		1			Present during December visit only.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber		2	2	1	Despite not being noted in November, the species appears to have wintered on site and was noted in all other months.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber		78		10	Numbers varied; the gregarious nature of this species means it was likely wintering over a sizeable part of Northumberland.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber	2	1		10	Present on most visits, varying in number and associating with pasture.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green				3	Present in February, likely pertained to returning breeding birds.

Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber		1			Present in one visit only.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	14	28	1	24	Numbers fluctuated throughout the winter.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green		3			Flyovers in December only.
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber			26	1	Numbers in January were inadvertently flushed from a fresh water stream, with snow cover and ice across west Northumberland these were almost certainly displayed birds from off site.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber	1				Noted during November's visit only. Did not winter on site.
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Amber				1	Present on pool visible was transect.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber	34	25			Present on pool visible from transect.
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Red			3		Present on one visit only.
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Red			1		Flushed inadvertently in January, likely associated with snow cover.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	1				Present in November.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	1	2	2	2	Numbers steady across the winter.

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

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	5	7	2	5	Present in varying numbers.
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber		1		3	Present on two of four visits.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	2	3	6		Only went unrecorded in February.

Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green	2	1		1	Noted during three of four visits.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	5	1	1	8	Present on all visits, with numbers peaking in February.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	5	2		1	Present on three of four visits.
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Green		1			Flyover in December.
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green		1			Noted during December visit.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber	2	2	3		Numbers varied throughout winter but went unrecorded in February.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red	5	25	15		Numbers varied throughout the winter, but lacking during February visit.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	6		5	4	Present on most visits, only lacking during December visit.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green		1	1		Present on two of four visits.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green			1		Noted during January visit.
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Red		3	1		Present in December and January, this is a rare bird in Northumberland and so very notable.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber			1		Flyover noted during January visit.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red	2	2	1		Present on every visit apart from February.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green				1	Present during February visit.
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green	2		1		Calling in woodland adjacent to the site.
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	No Status				1	Present during February visit.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	2	4	1	1	Noted on every visit.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber	1	1			Noted over the first half of the winter only.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber	1	15	4		Present in varying number over winter, with a peak noted in December.

Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green	2				Present in November only, these could have been autumn migrants.
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber			2		Present in January only.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	200	10	20		Numbers varied across the winter.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber				2	Noted in February, could pertain to potentially returning breeders.
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green	1	1			Noted during first half of winter only.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	5	2		1	Noted in every month apart from January.

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	1	1	Single bird noted every month.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	2				Noted in November only.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green		1		1	Present on two of four visits.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	5		1	3	Numbers varied throughout the winter.
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Green			1		Flyover.
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	1		1		Present on two visits, likely under recorded due to secretive nature in the winter.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber	1		1		Present on two visits.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red			6		Present during January visit only.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green		1			Noted in December visit only.
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Green				1	Displaying male coming from the direction of Harwood Forest.

Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	1				Flyover in November.
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Green				23	Flyover flock noted in February, likely birds returning to the area as part of early spring migration.
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green		1			Noted in December only.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber	11		8	2	Present in every month apart from December. Number varied but the species is utilising wet areas created through habitat creation.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	2	5			Present over first half of the winter.
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	No Status	2	1			Noted during first half of the winter.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	1	1	1	2	Present.
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber	2	3	1	3	Present throughout the winter.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Green	1				Flyover in November only, a classic month for birds moving around wider areas of west Northumberland.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber		1			Present in December.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red			2	2	Present over latter half of the winter, could relate to returning breeding birds.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green	3			1	Only absent in December and January.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	9		403		Noted on two visits, the peaty areas are not ideal for foraging starlings when compared to adjacent habitat options.
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green				1	Flyover.
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber	1				Present in November visit, but could have gone undetected in other months, given the species

							reluctance to flush and expanse of habitat now created.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber	20	1	20	14	Present in varying numbers, the wet areas created through habitat restoration appear to have now made this species a wintering bird.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	9	4	5	4	Number varied, with peak in November.

4 REFERENCES

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

Stanbury et al. (December 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, p.723–747. https://britishbirds.co.uk/sites/default/files/BB_Dec21-BoCC5-IUCN2.pdf

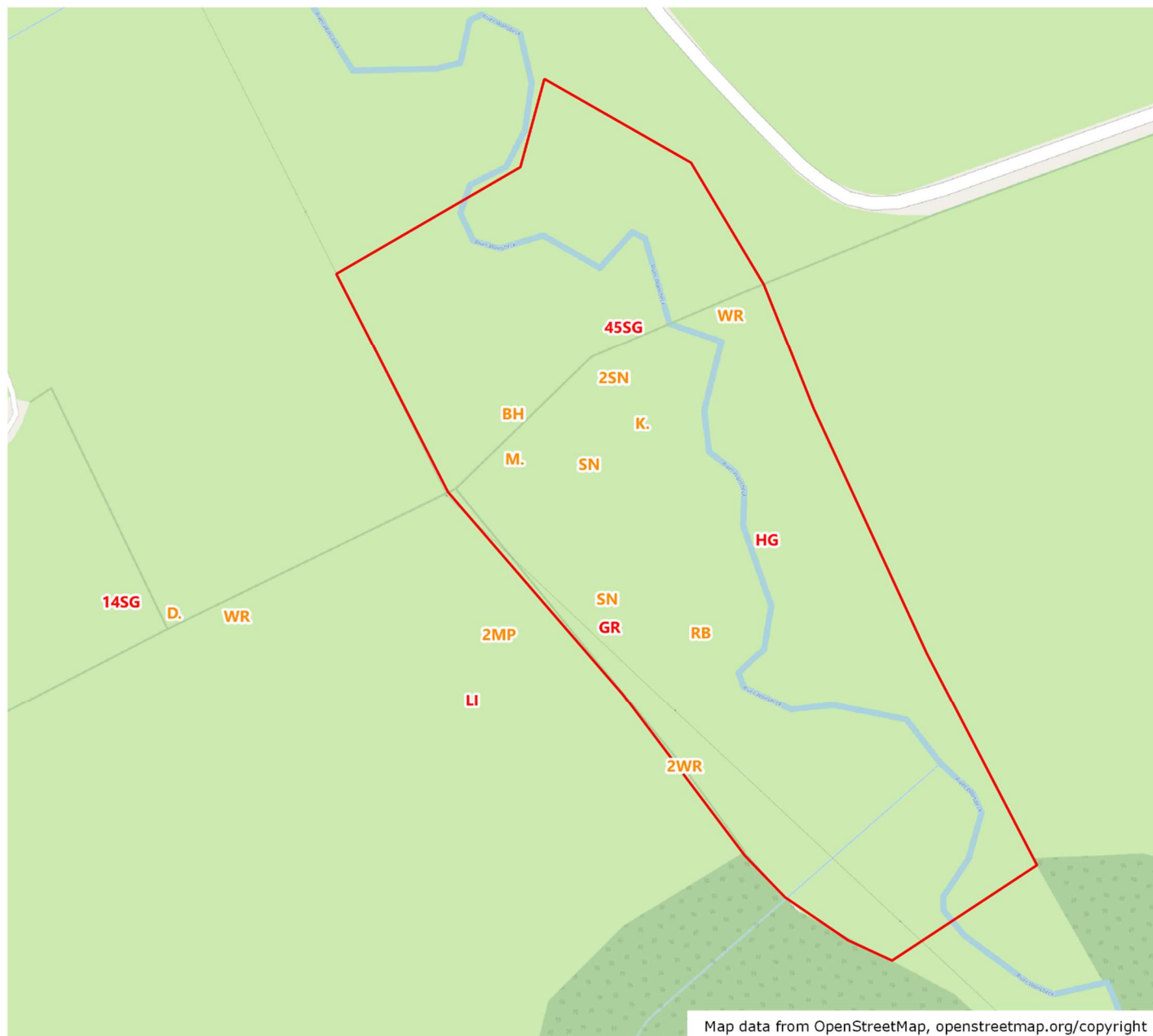
Standard naming and coding of species and subspecies regularly found in Britain and Ireland (long list). (n.d.). https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u10/downloads/taking-part/species_codes.pdf.

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 2024;
- Figure 2: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in December 2024;
- Figure 3: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in January 2025;
- Figure 4: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in February 2025;
- Figure 5: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in November 2024;
- Figure 6: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in December 2024;
- Figure 7: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in January 2025;
- Figure 8: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in February 2025;
- Figure 9: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in November 2024;
- Figure 10: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in December 2024;
- Figure 11: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in January 2025;
- Figure 12: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in February 2025;
- Figure 13: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairnley in November 2024;
- Figure 14: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairnley in December 2024;
- Figure 15: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairnley in January 2025;
- Figure 16: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairnley in February 2025;
- Figure 17: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in November 2025;
- Figure 18: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in December 2025;
- Figure 19: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in January 2025;
- Figure 20: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in February 2025;

- Figure 21: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in November 2025;
- Figure 22: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in December 2025;
- Figure 23: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in January 2025; and
- Figure 24: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in February 2025.



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Figure 1: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in November 2024

Legend

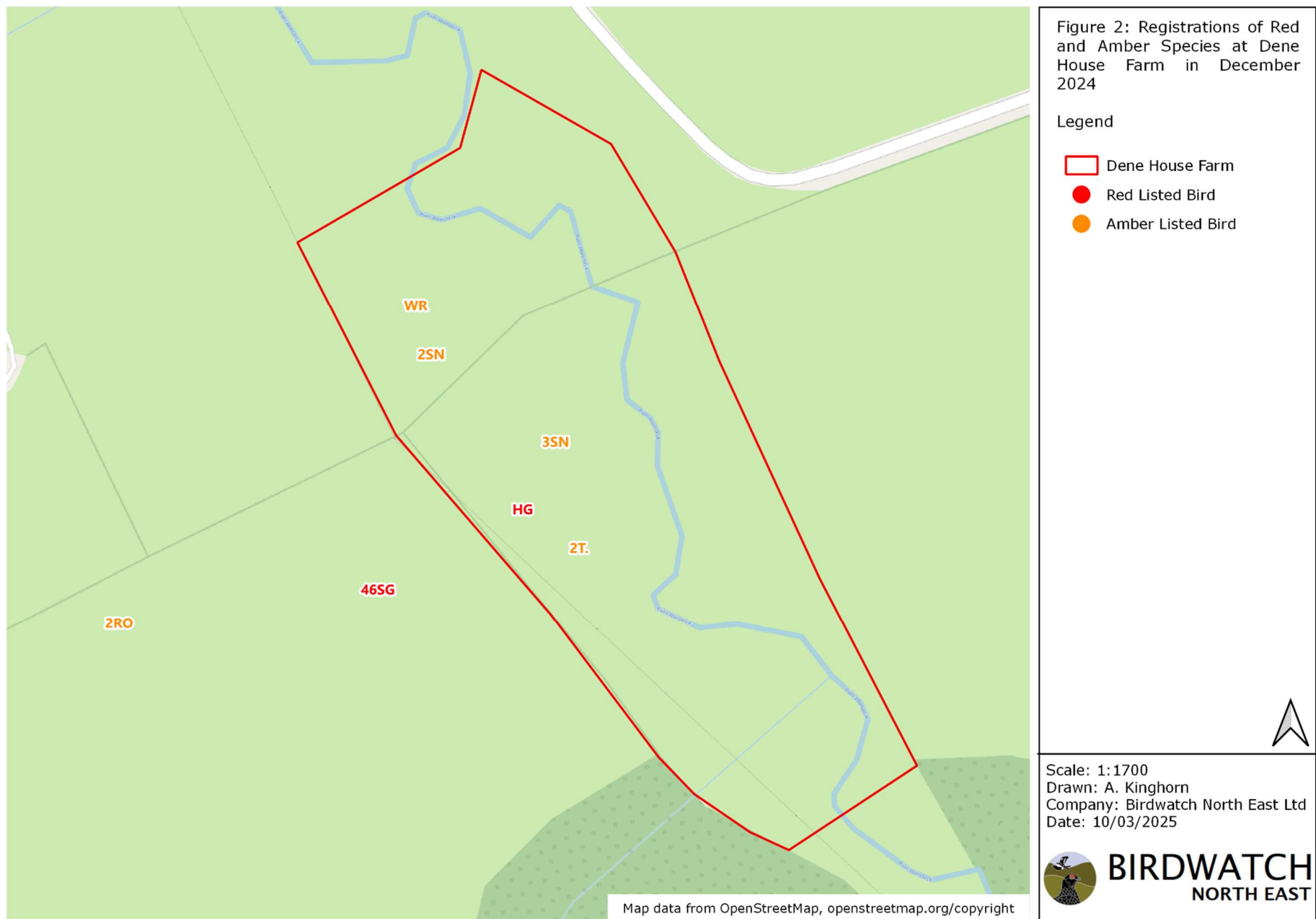
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- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird

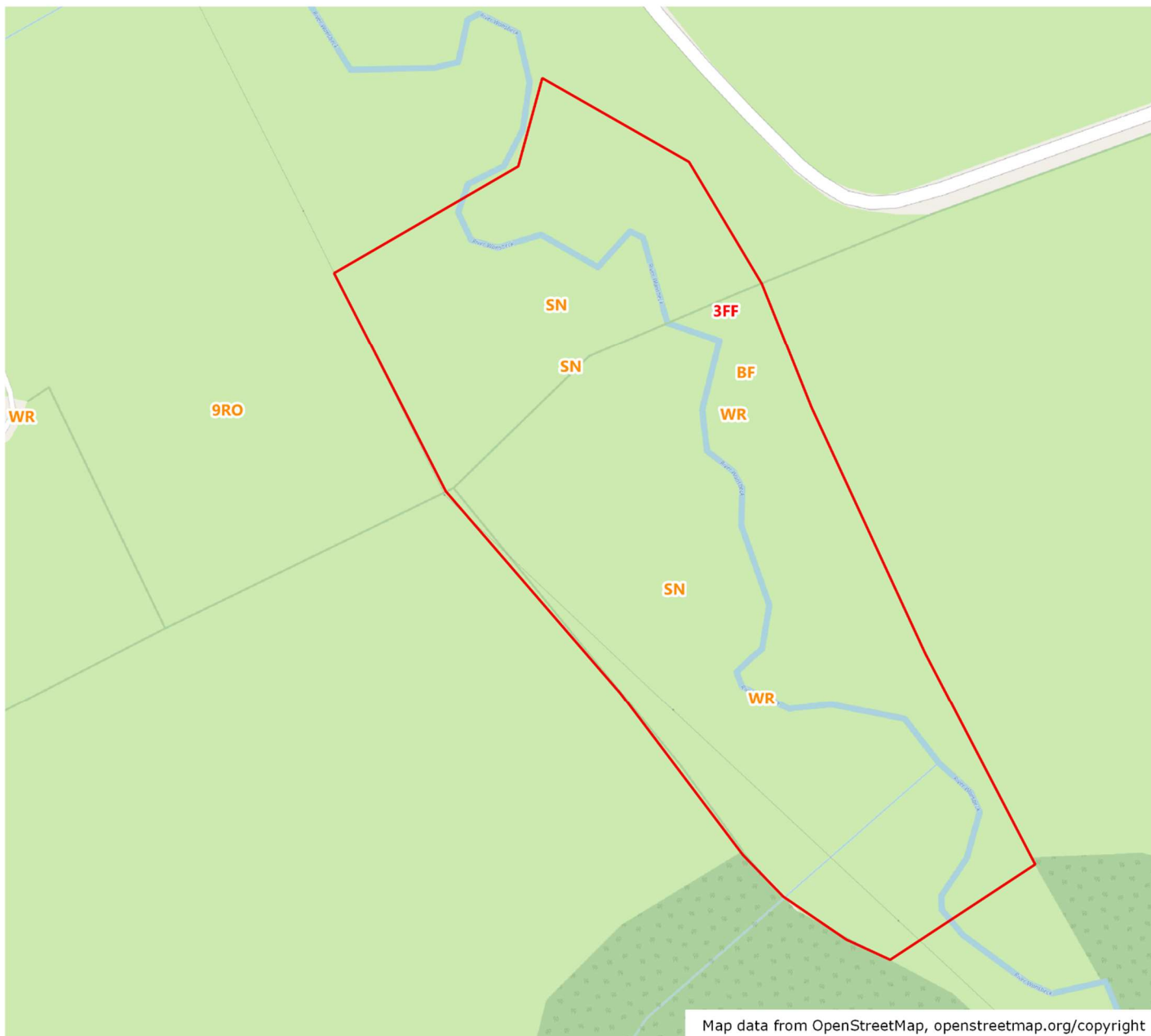


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 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 10/03/2025



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Figure 3: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in January 2025

Legend

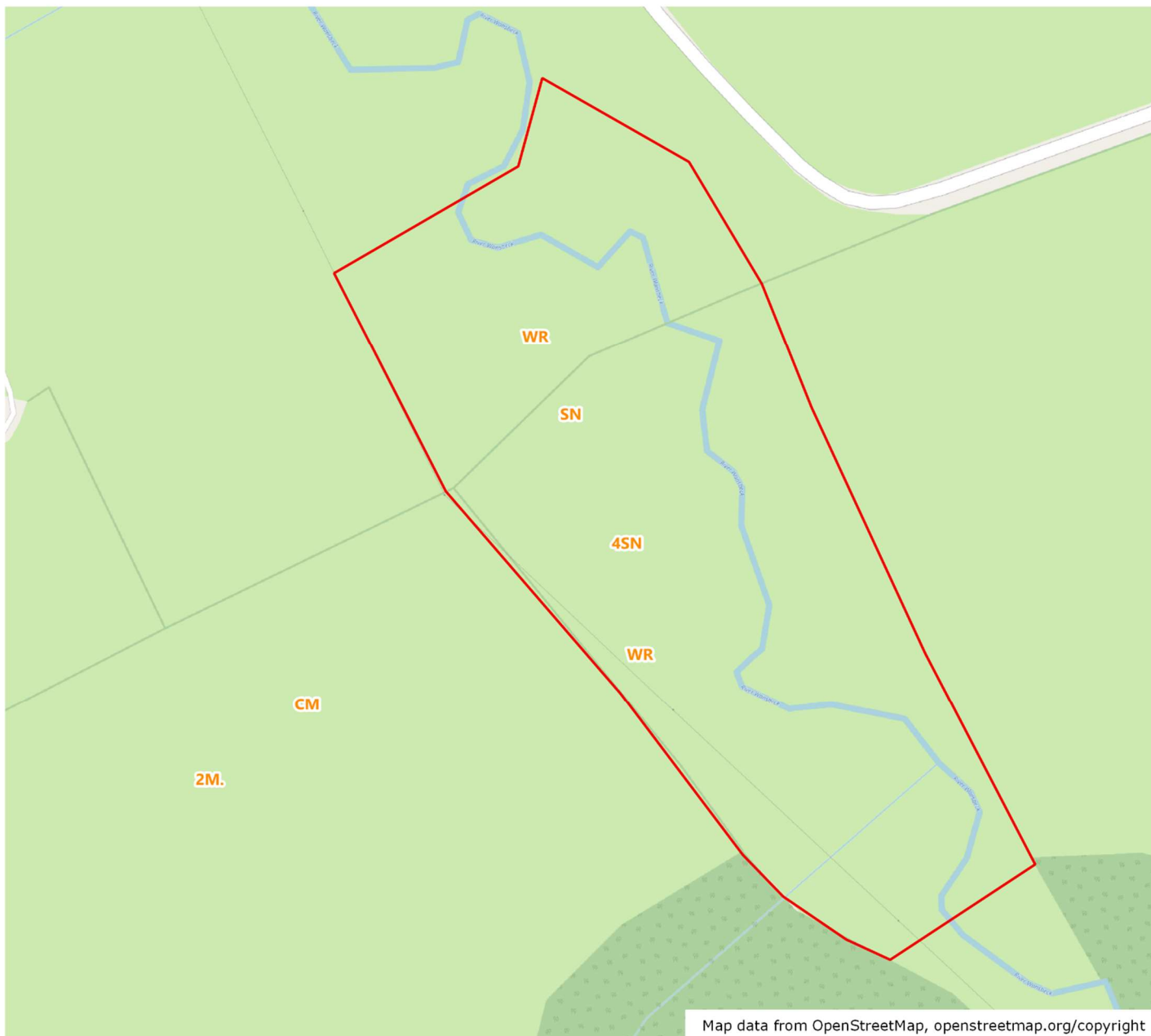
- Dene House Farm
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:1700
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
 Company: Birdwatch North East Ltd
 Date: 10/03/2025



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Figure 4: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Dene House Farm in February 2025

Legend

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



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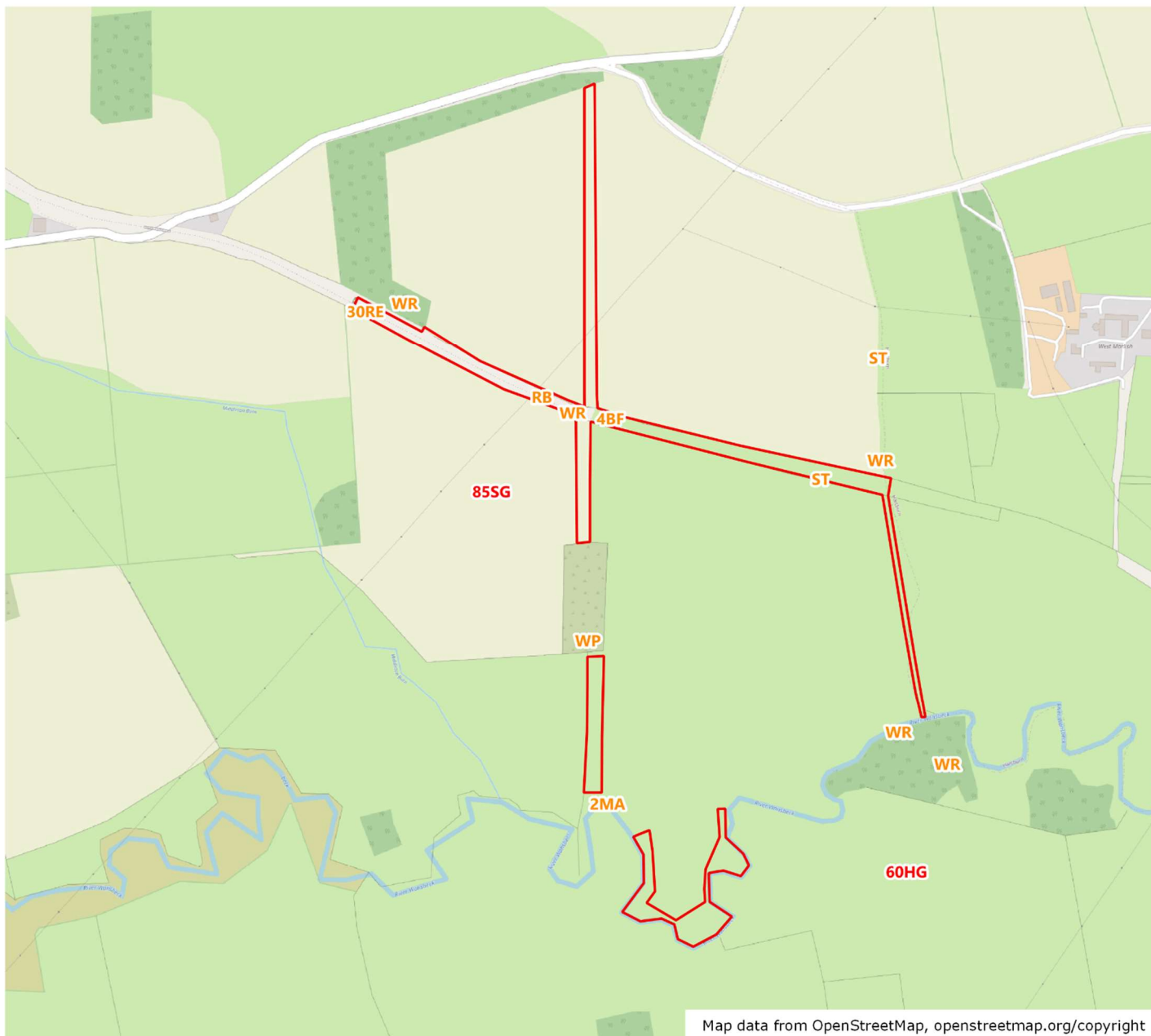


Figure 5: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in November 2024

Legend

- Middleton
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird

Scale: 1:7000
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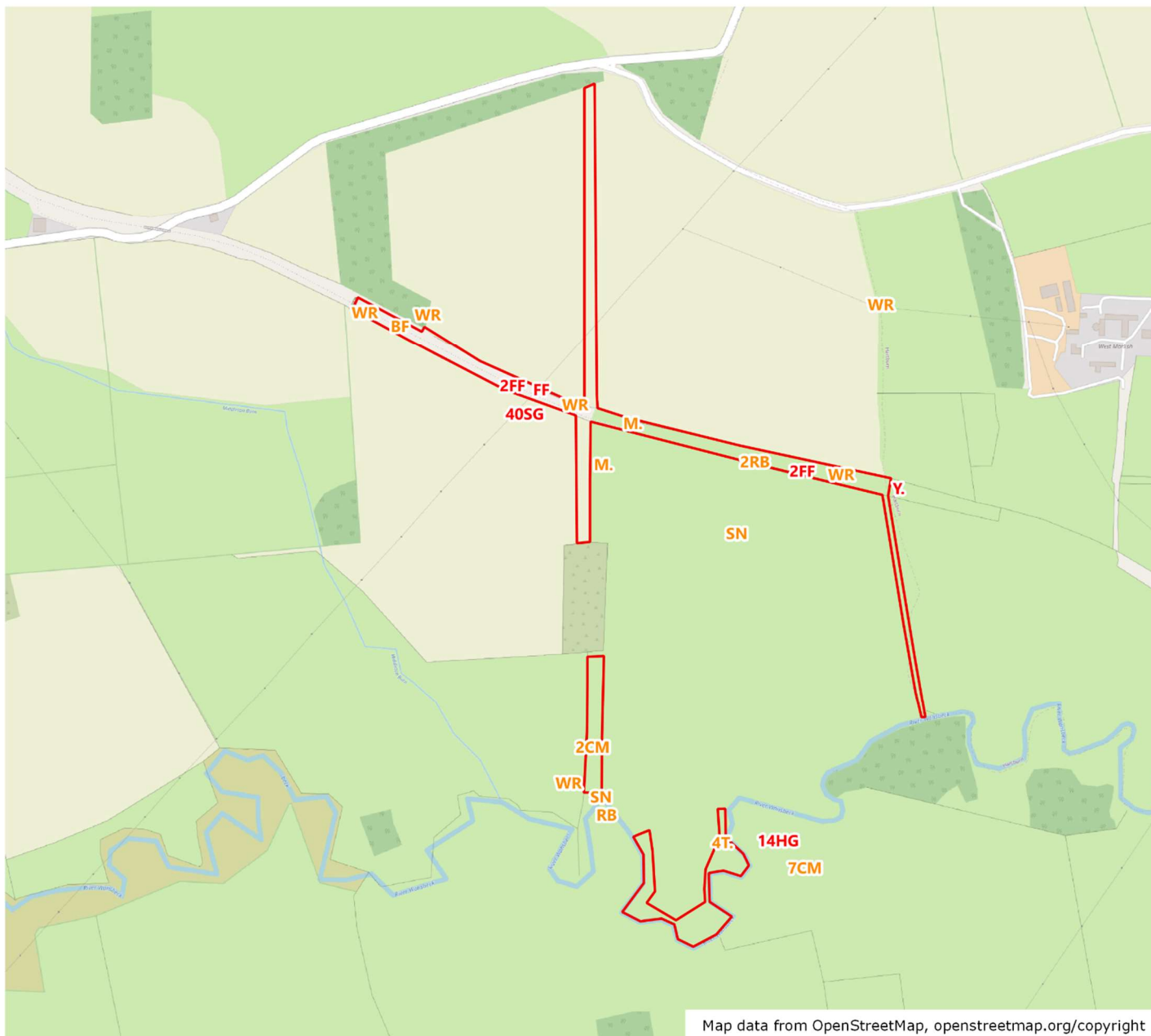


Figure 6: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in December 2024

Legend

- Middleton
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:7000
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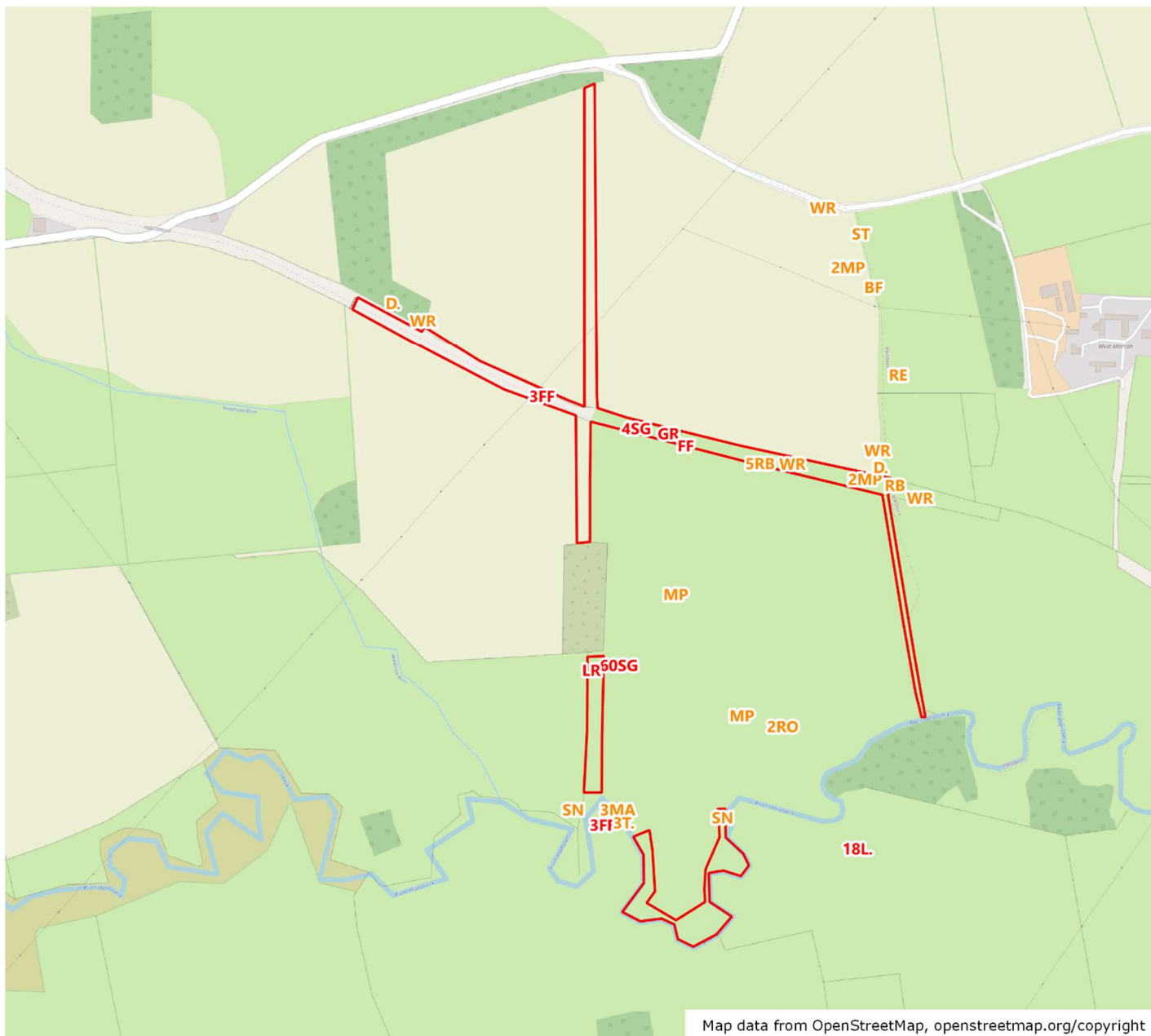


Figure 7: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in January 2025

Legend

- Middleton
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird

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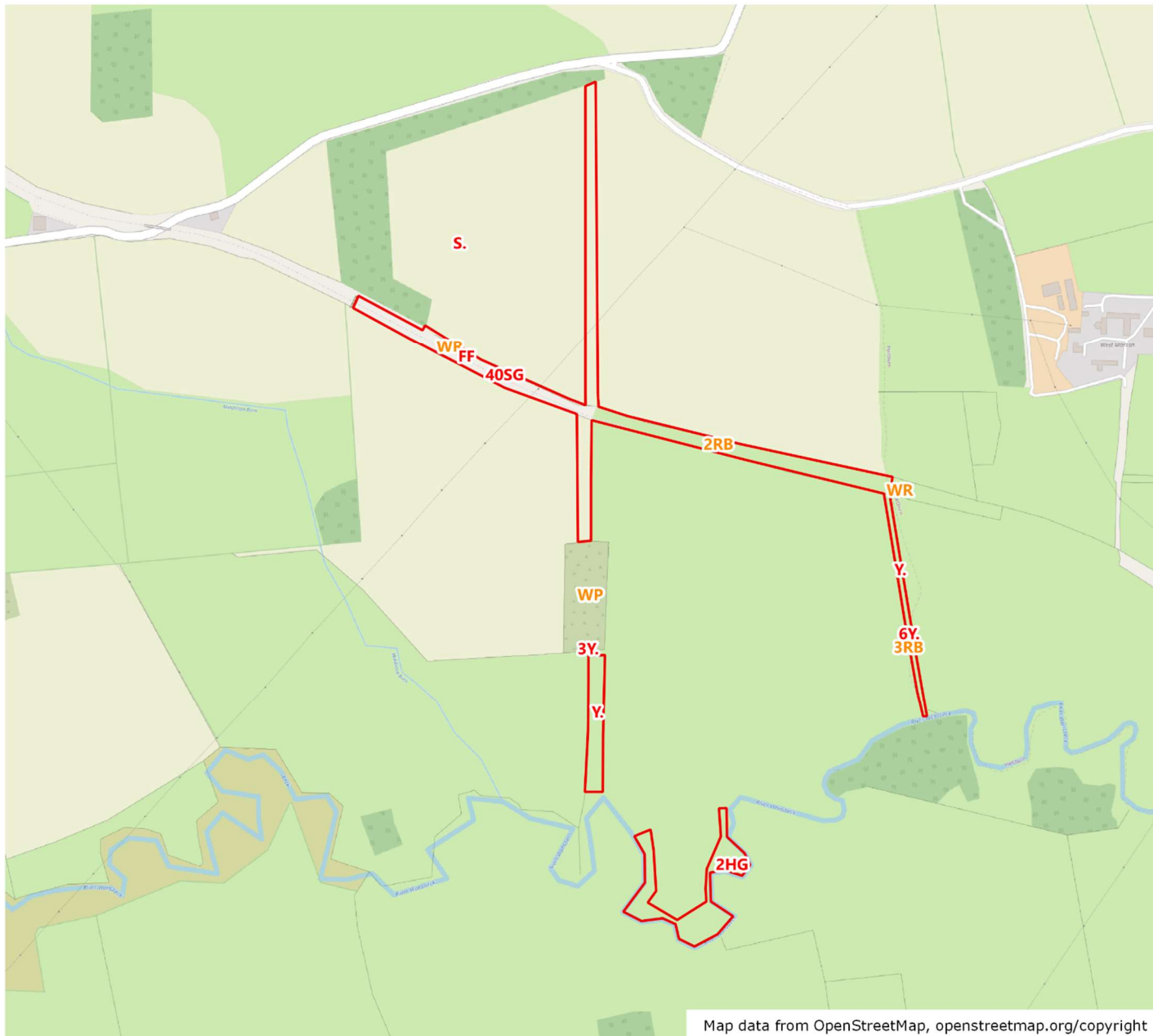


Figure 8: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Middleton in February 2025

Legend

- Middleton
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



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Figure 9: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in November 2024

Legend

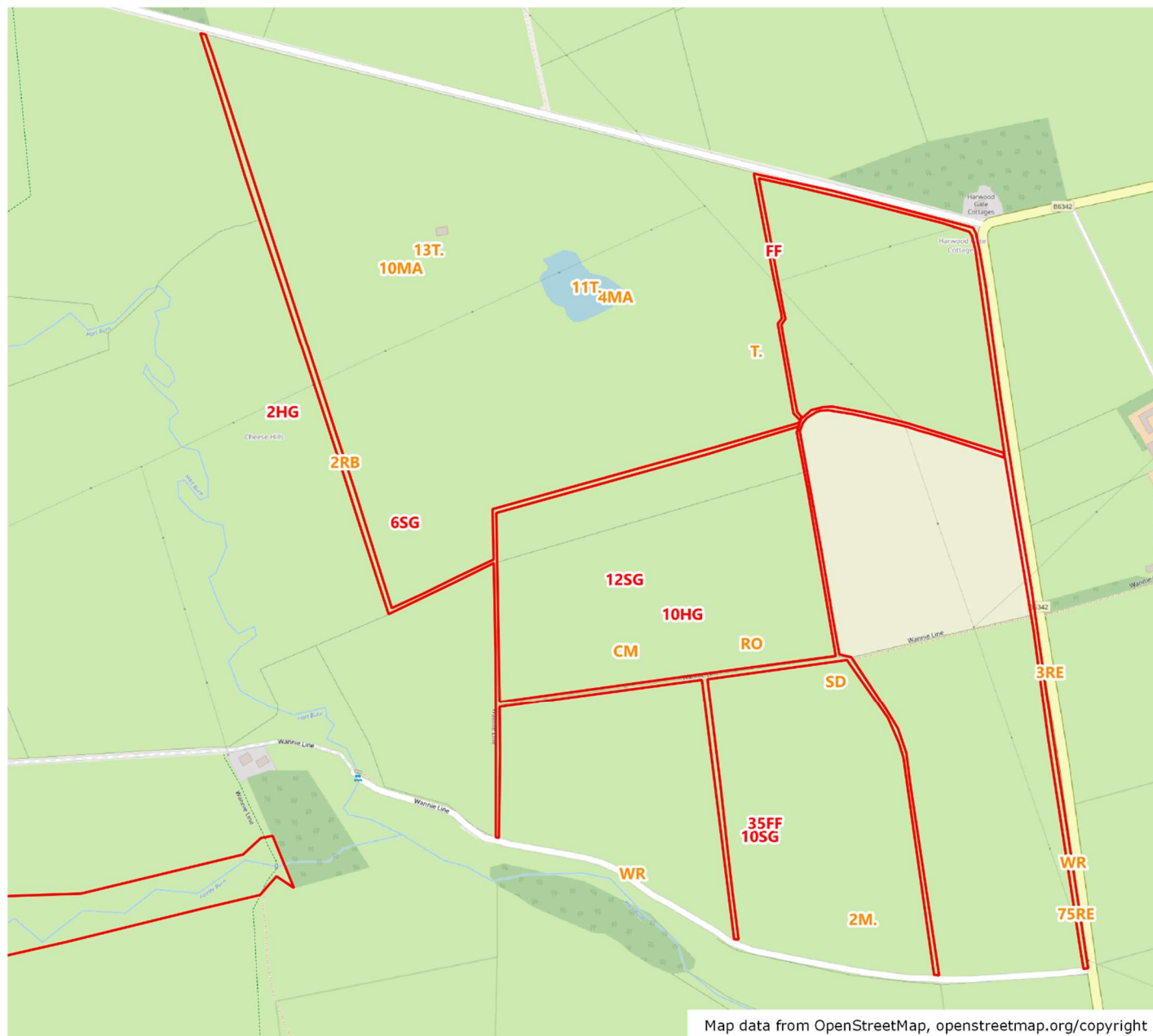
- Ralphshield
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:6000
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
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 Date: 10/03/2025



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Figure 10: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in December 2024

Legend

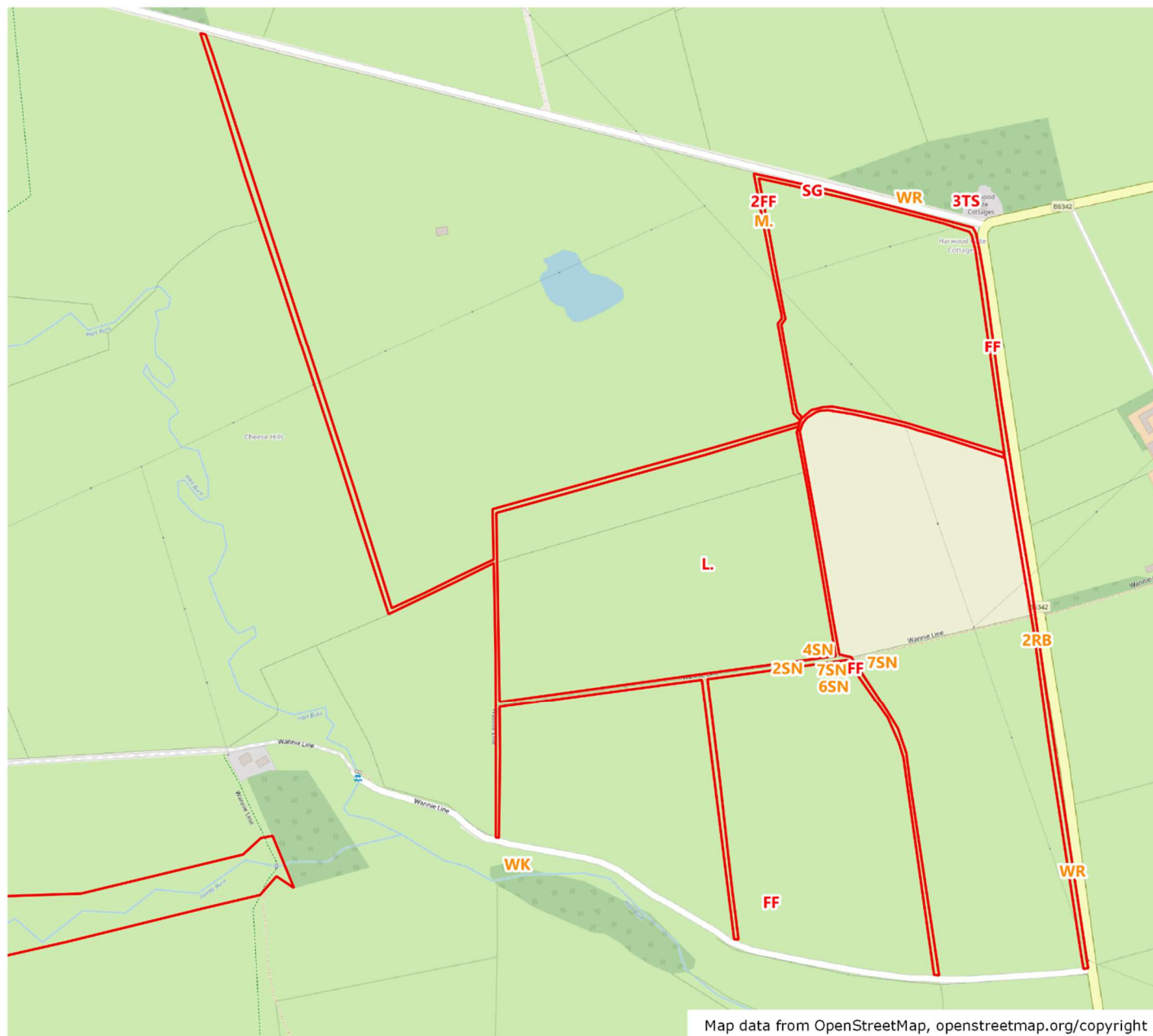
- Ralphshield
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:6000
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
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Figure 11: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in January 2025

Legend

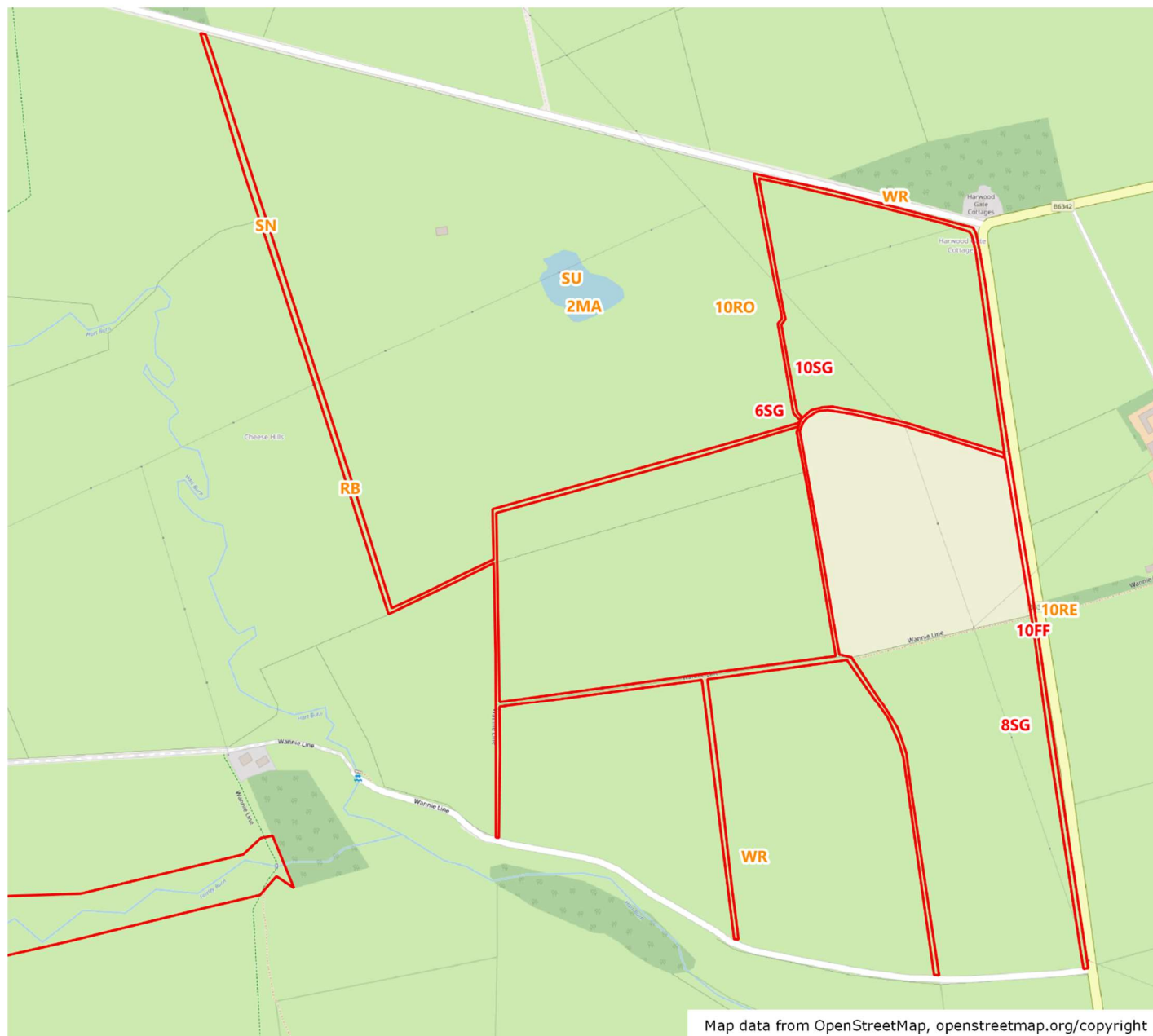
- Ralphshield
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



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Figure 12: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Ralphshield in February 2025

Legend

- Ralphshield
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird

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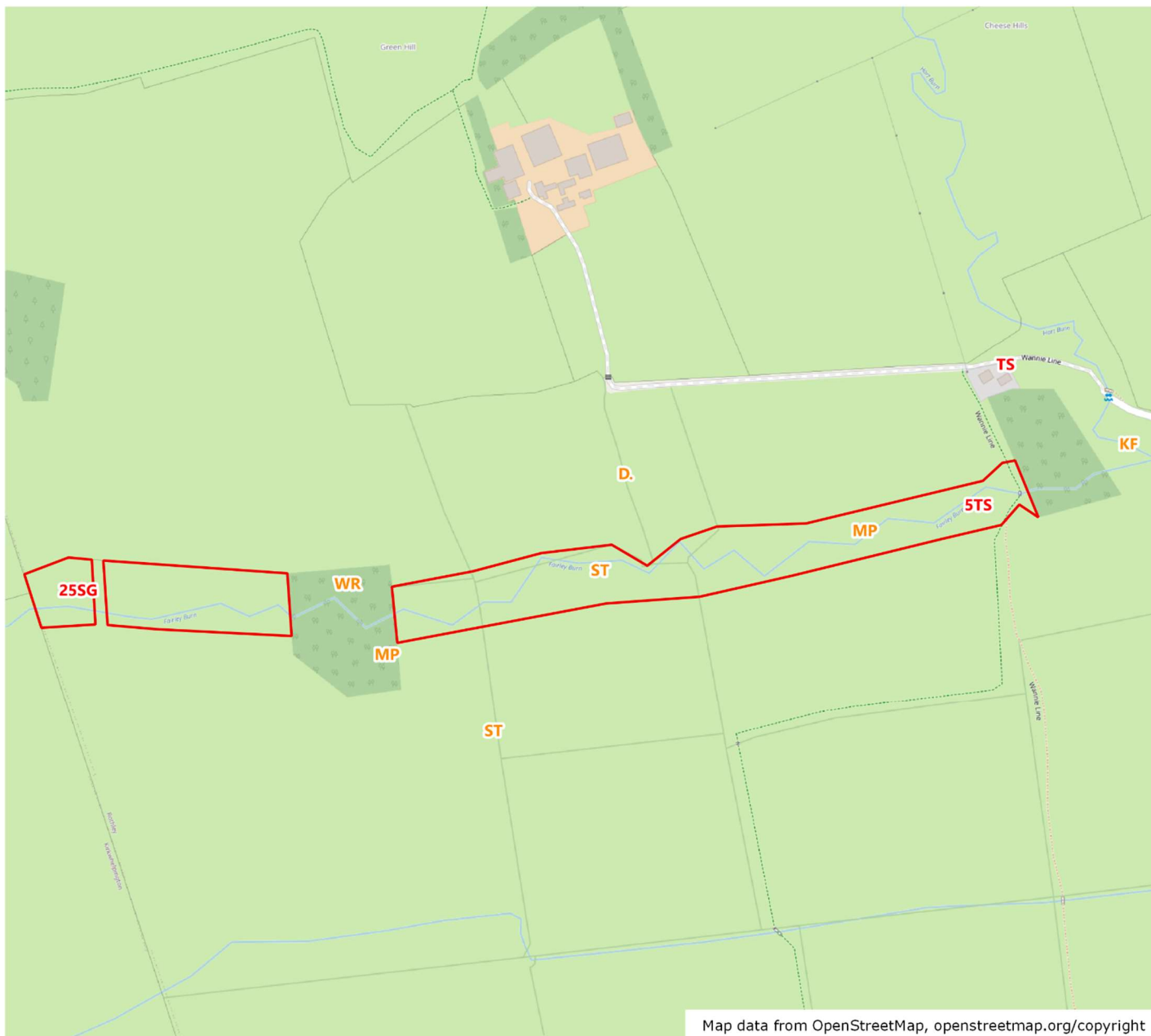


Figure 13: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairley in November 2024

Legend

- Fairley Farm
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird

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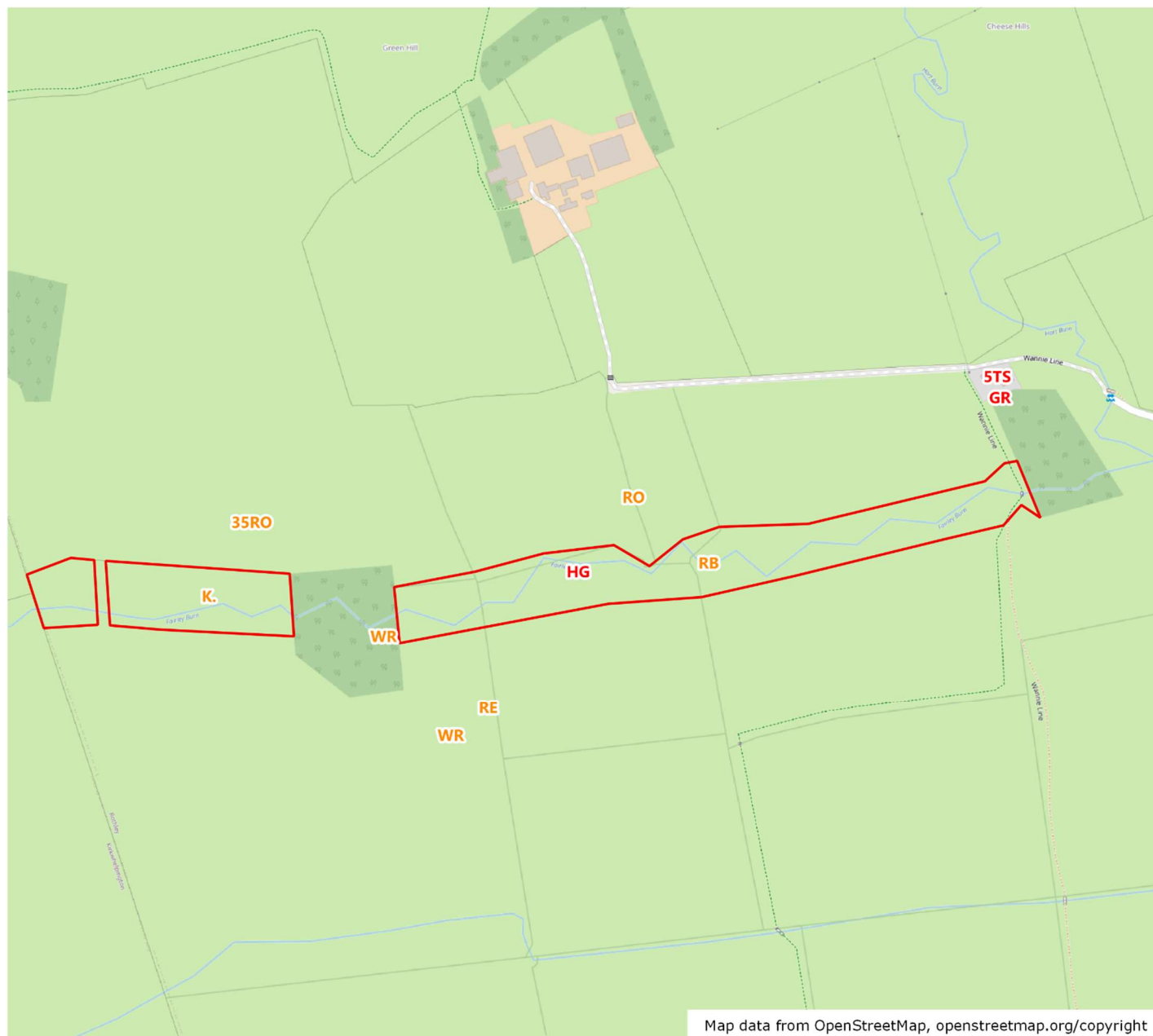


Figure 14: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairley in December 2024

Legend

- Fairley Farm
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird

Scale: 1:5500
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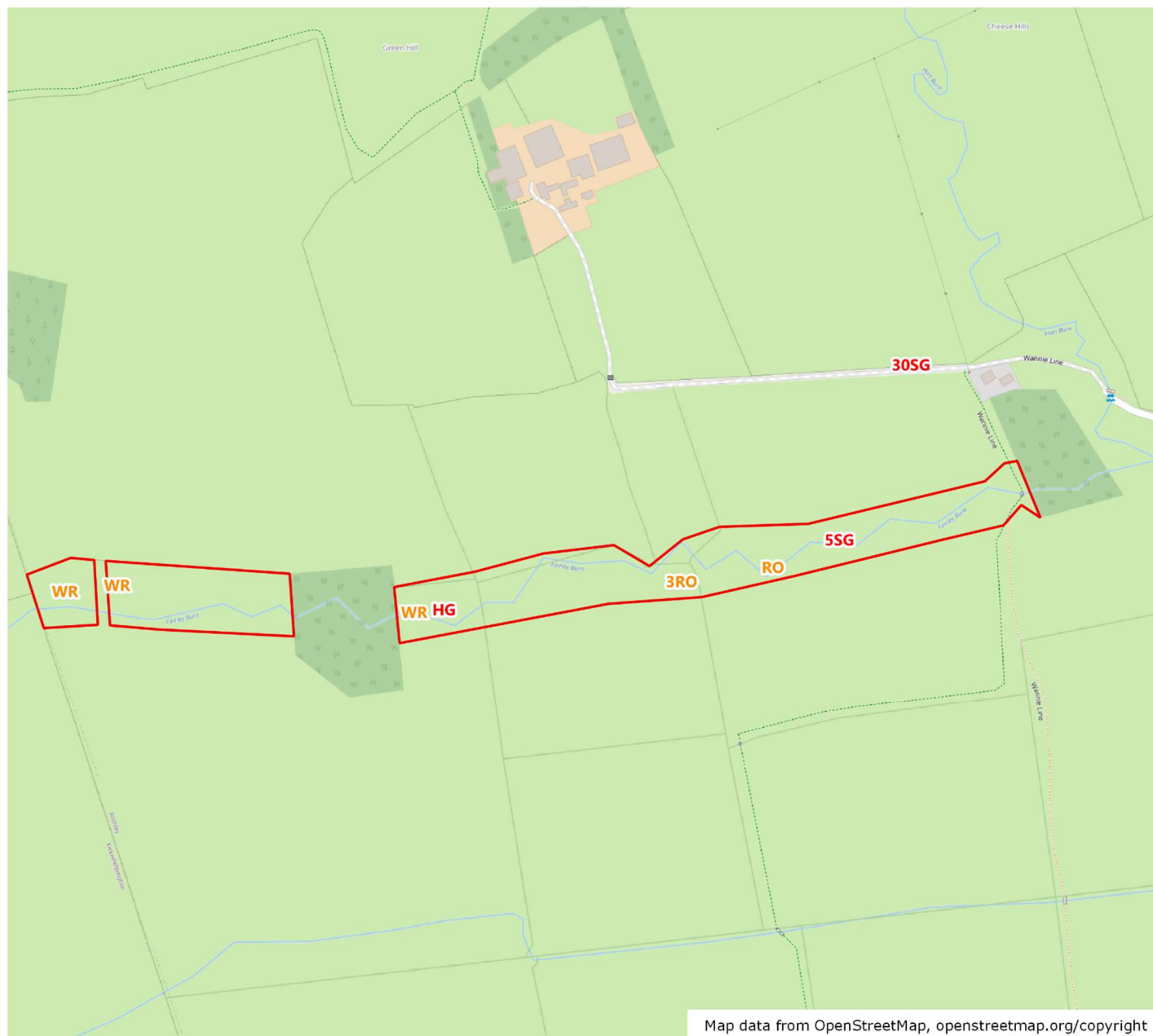


Figure 15: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairley in January 2025

Legend

- Fairley Farm
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



Scale: 1:5500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
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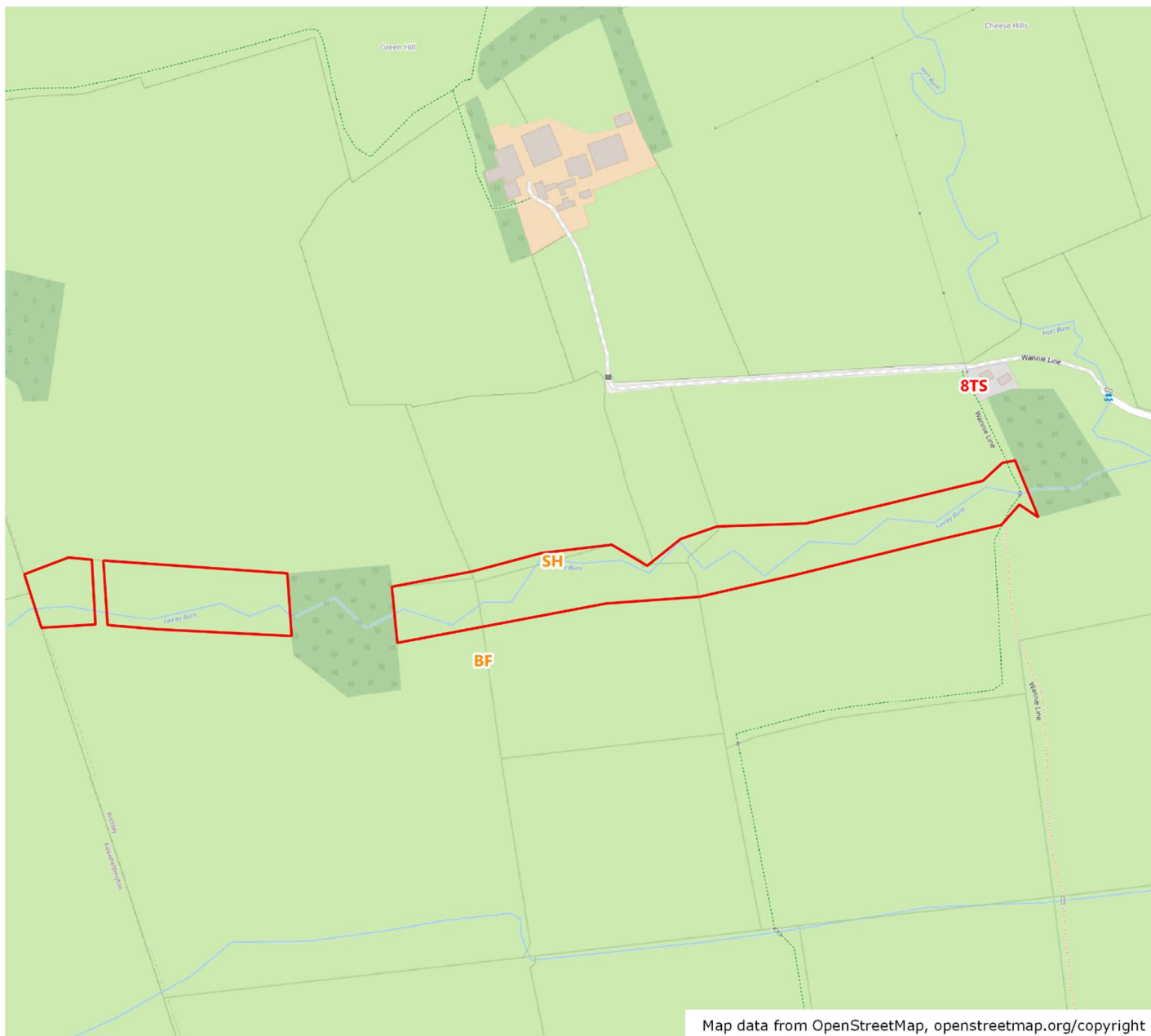


Figure 16: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Fairley in February 2025

Legend

- Fairley Farm
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird

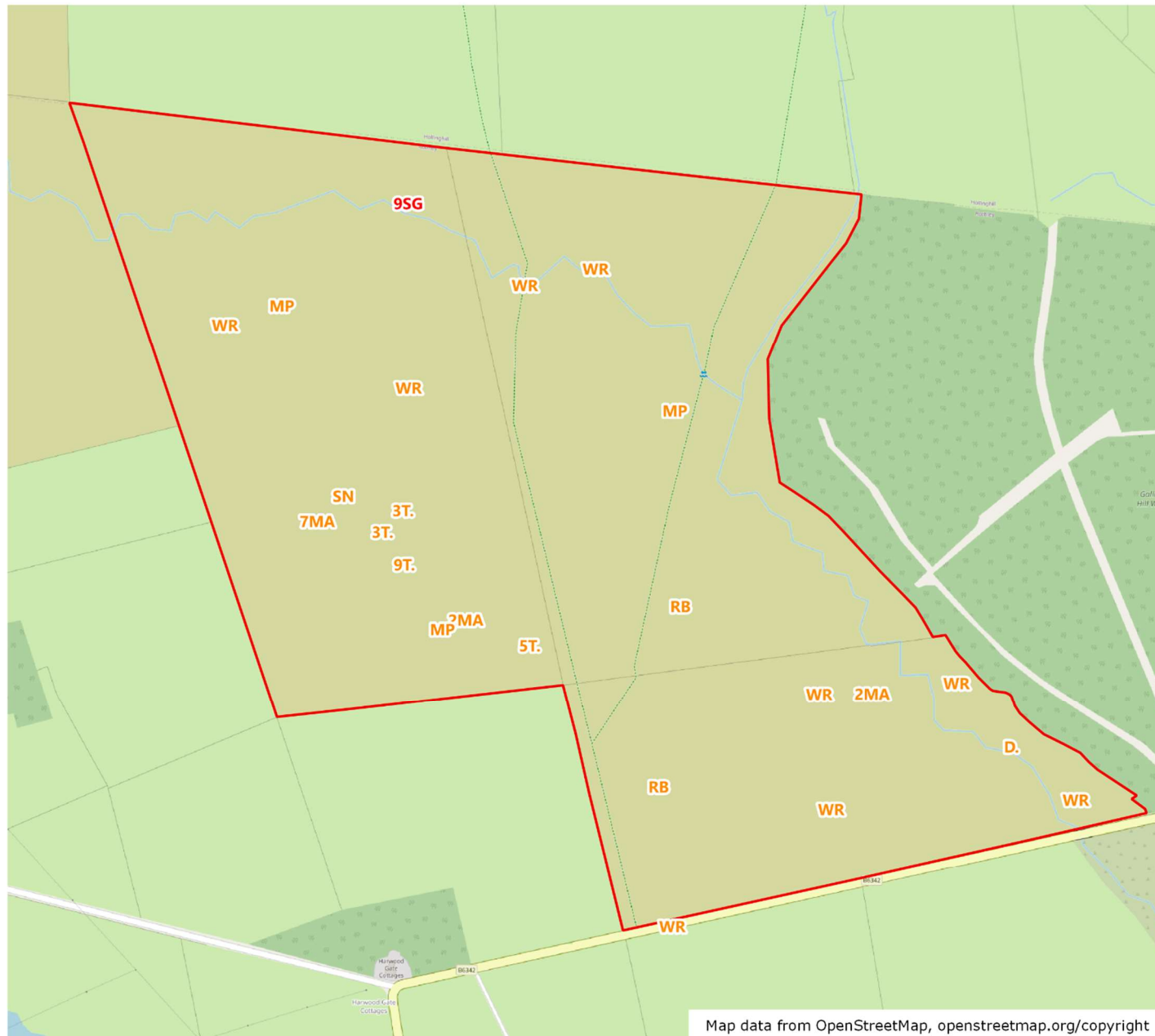


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Figure 17: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in November 2024

Legend

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



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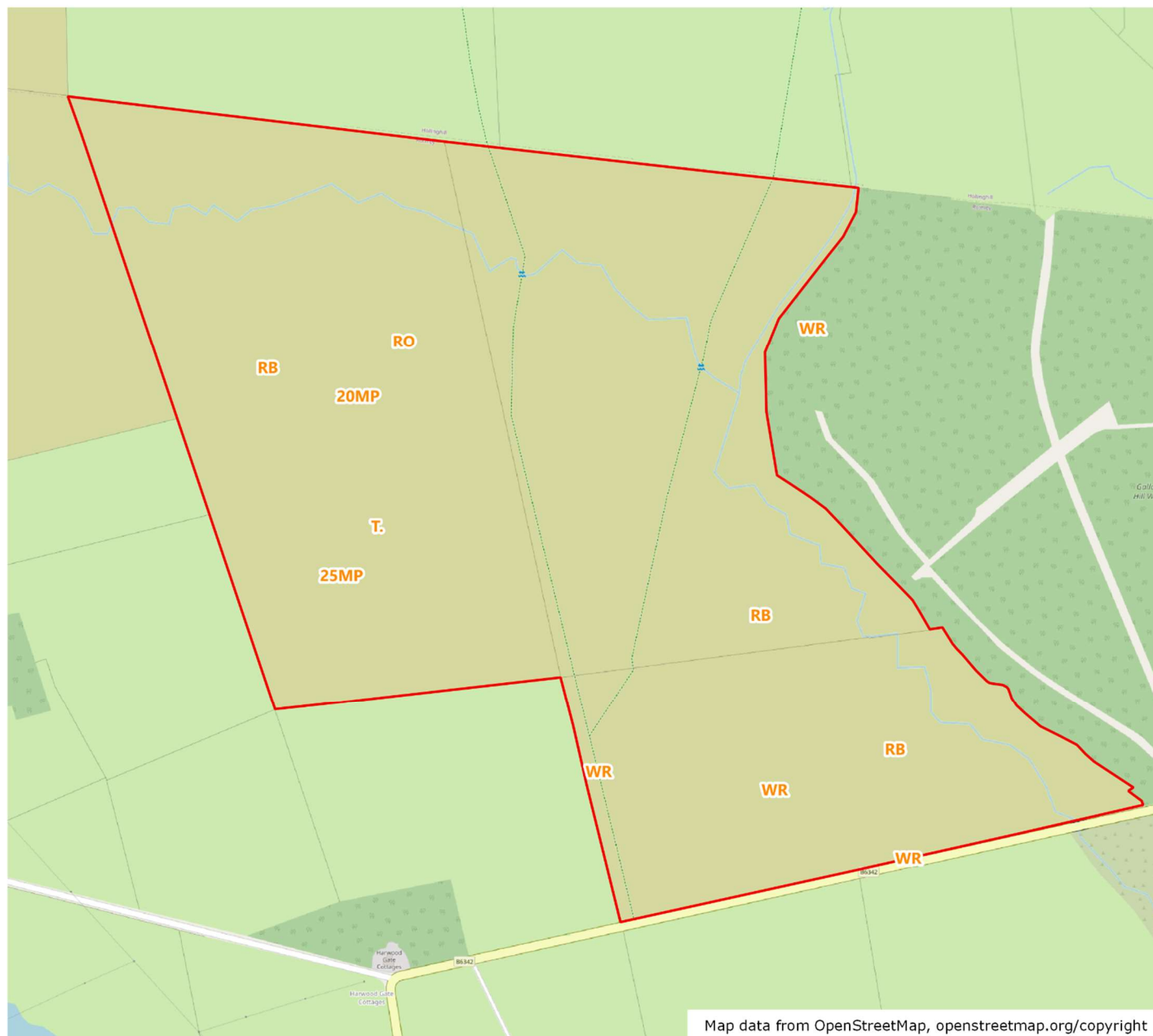


Figure 18: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in December 2024

Legend

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



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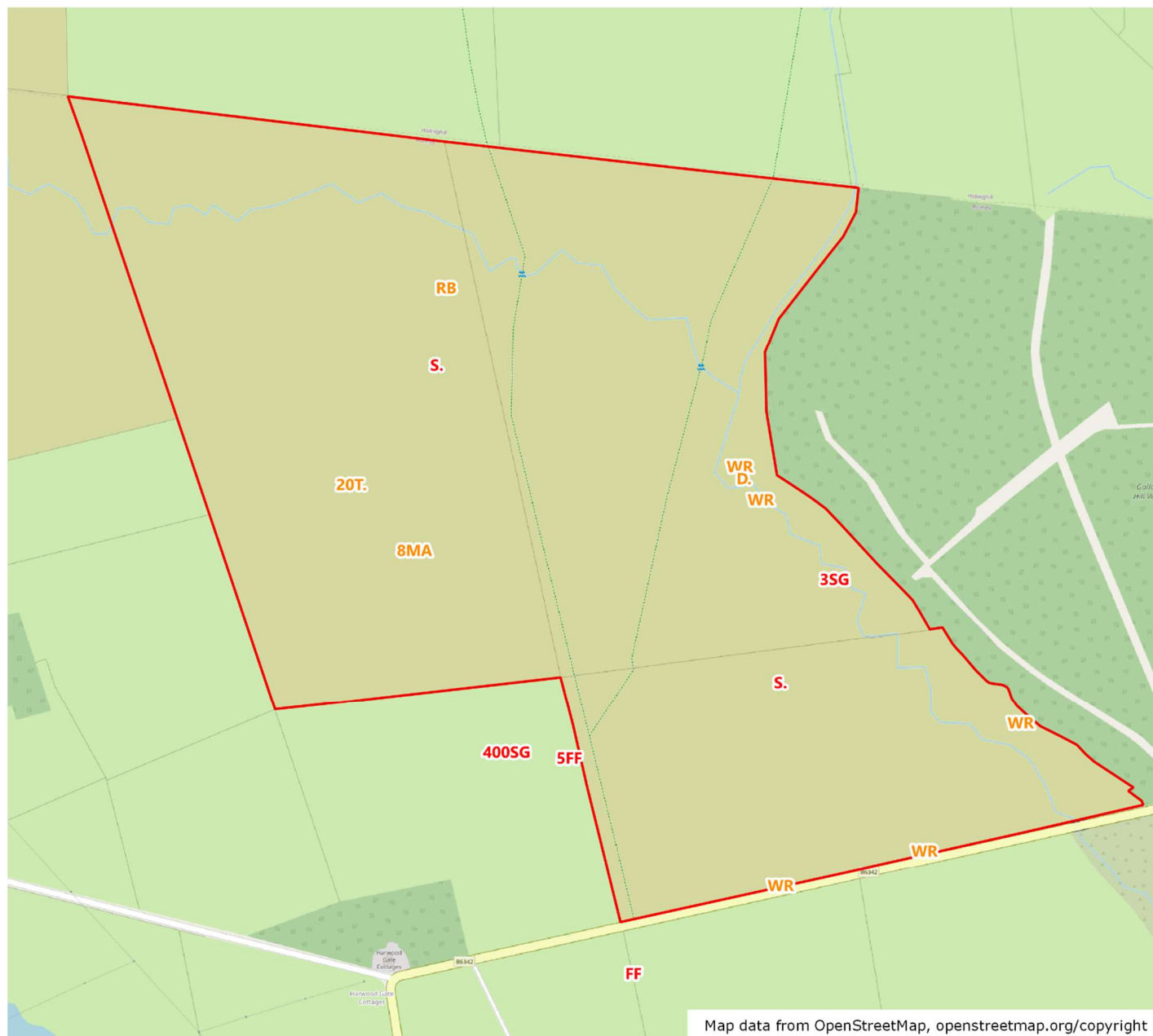


Figure 19: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in January 2025

Legend

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



Scale: 1:6500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
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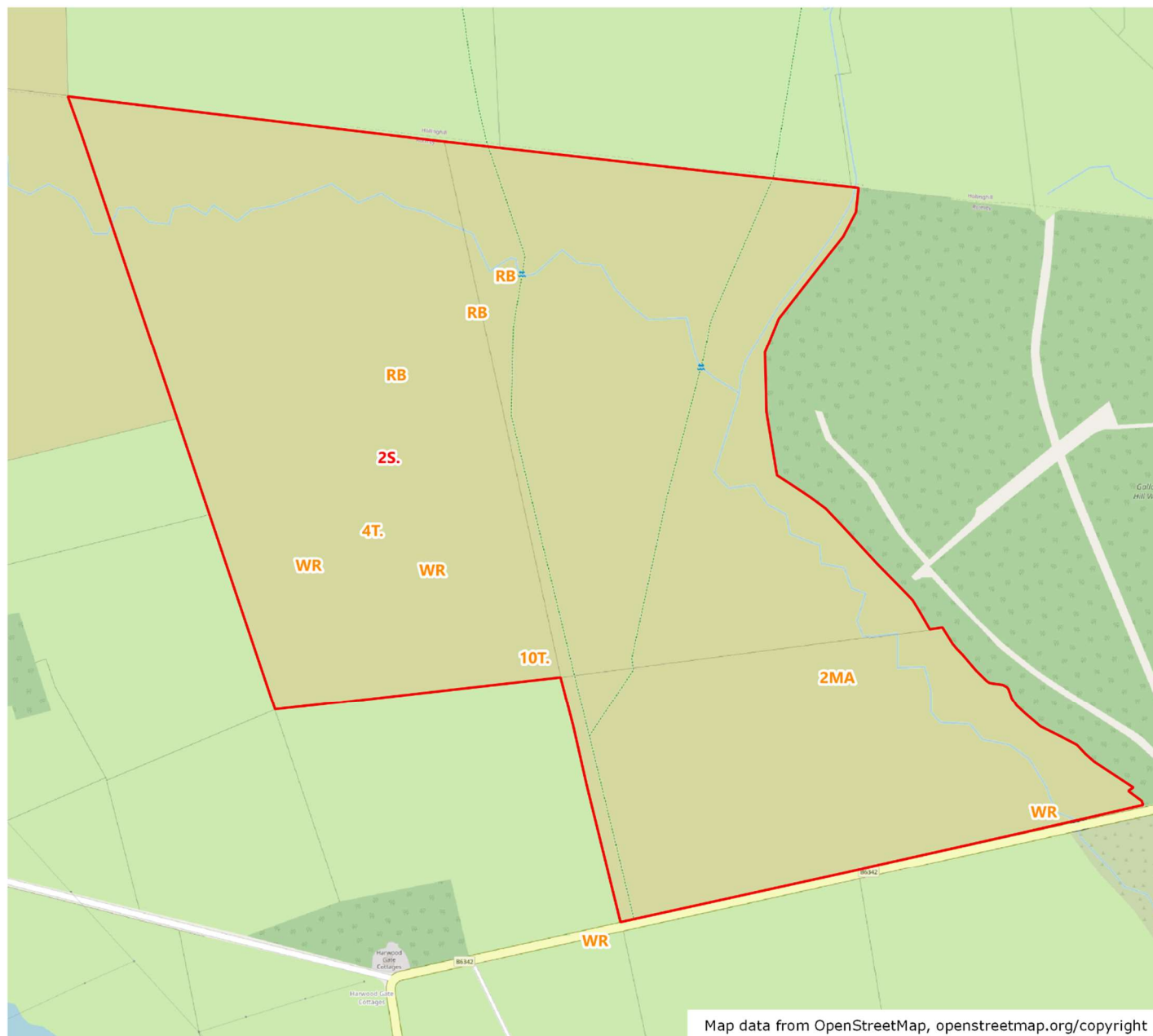


Figure 20: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill north in February 2025

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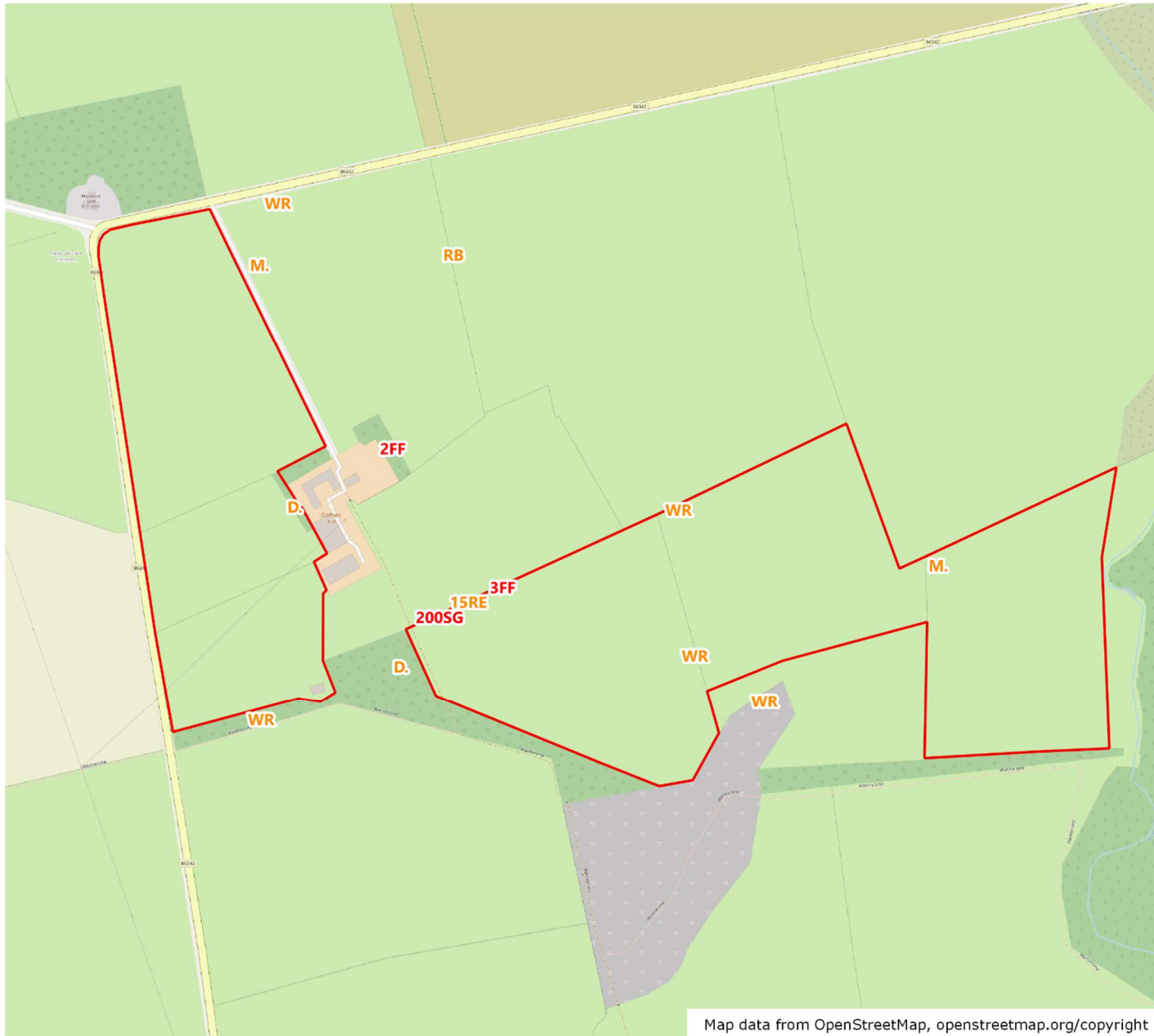
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- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



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Figure 21: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in November 2024

Legend

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



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 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
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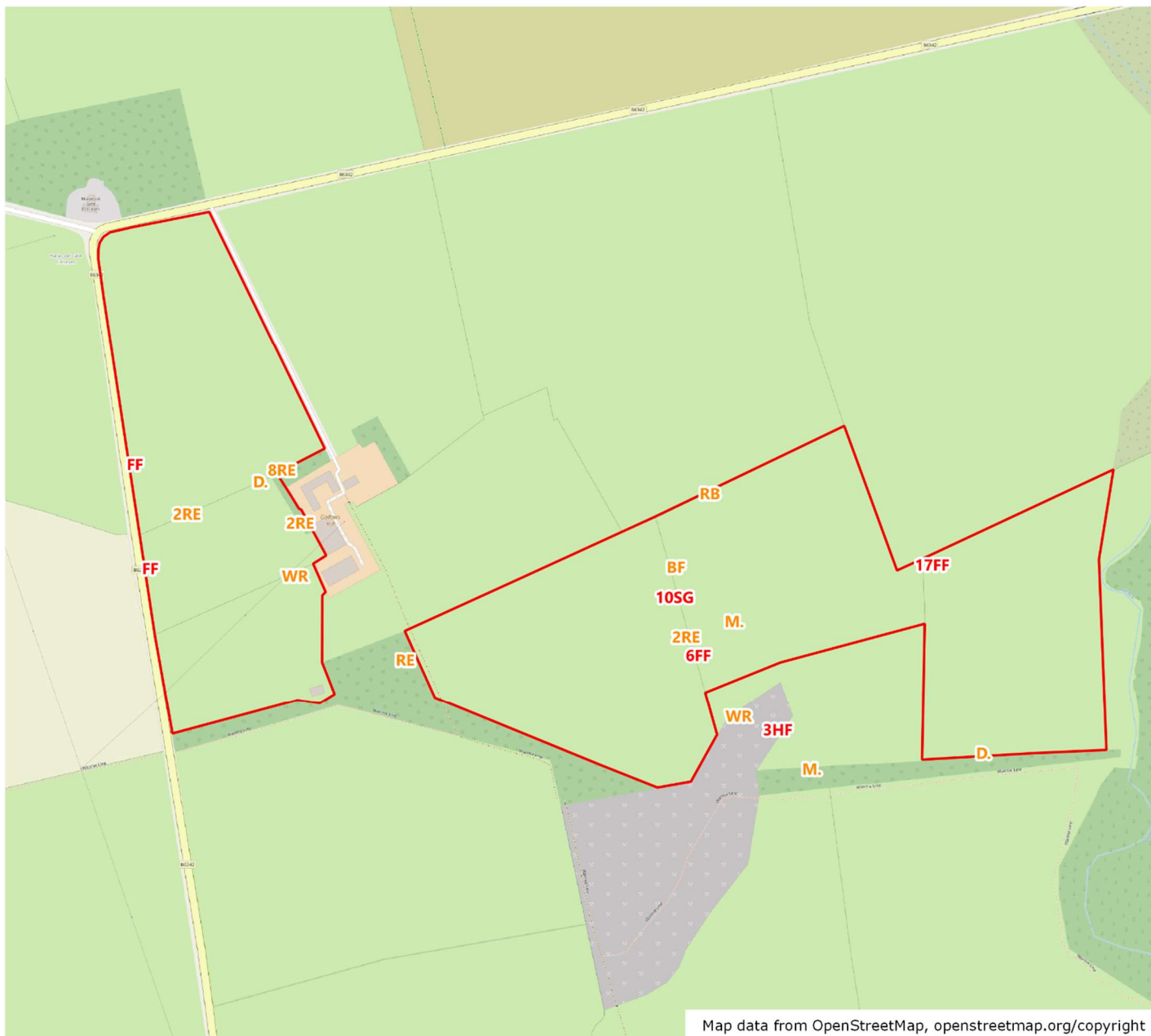


Figure 22: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in December 2024

Legend

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



Scale: 1:4500
 Drawn: A. Kinghorn
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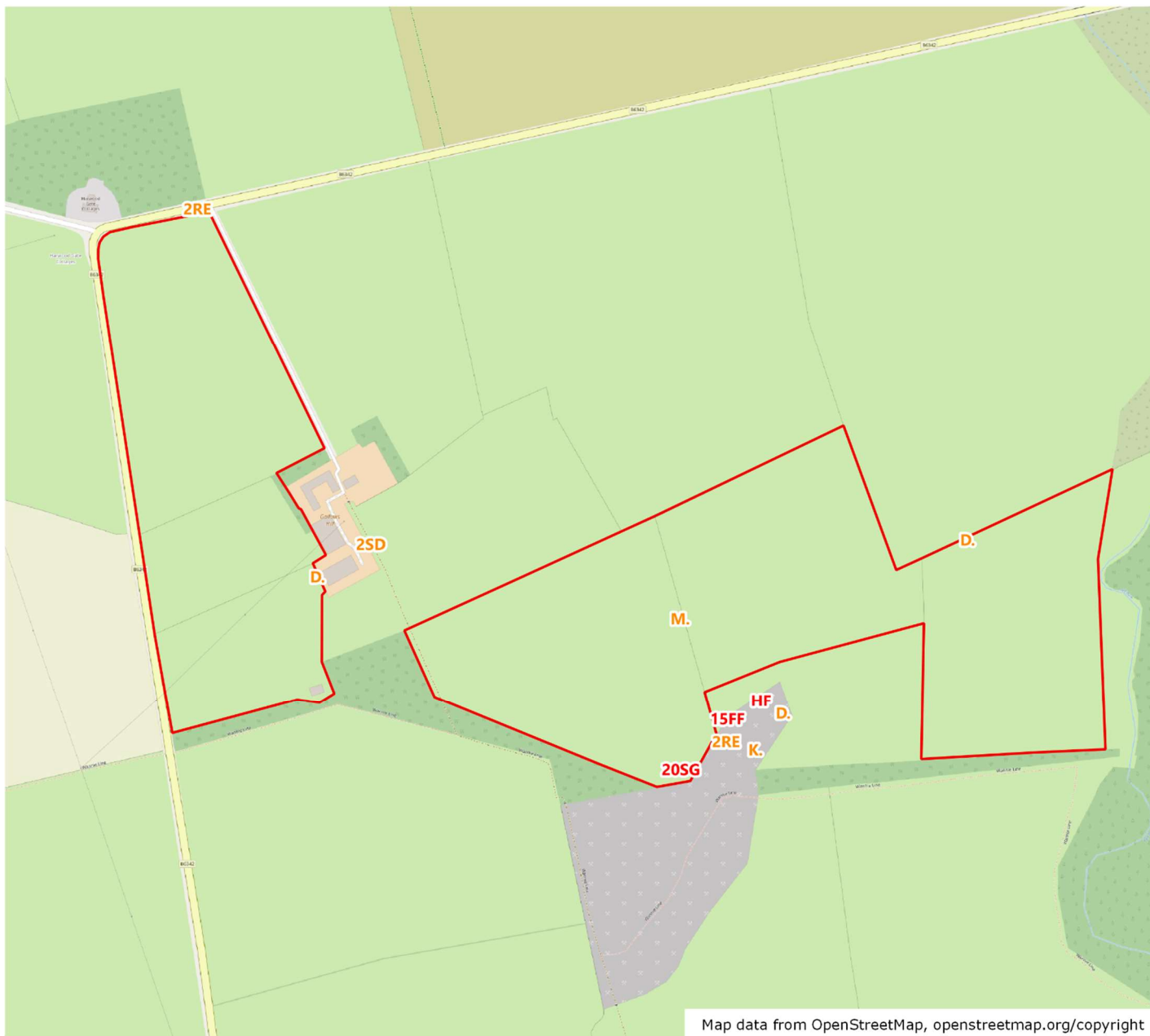


Figure 23: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in January 2025

Legend

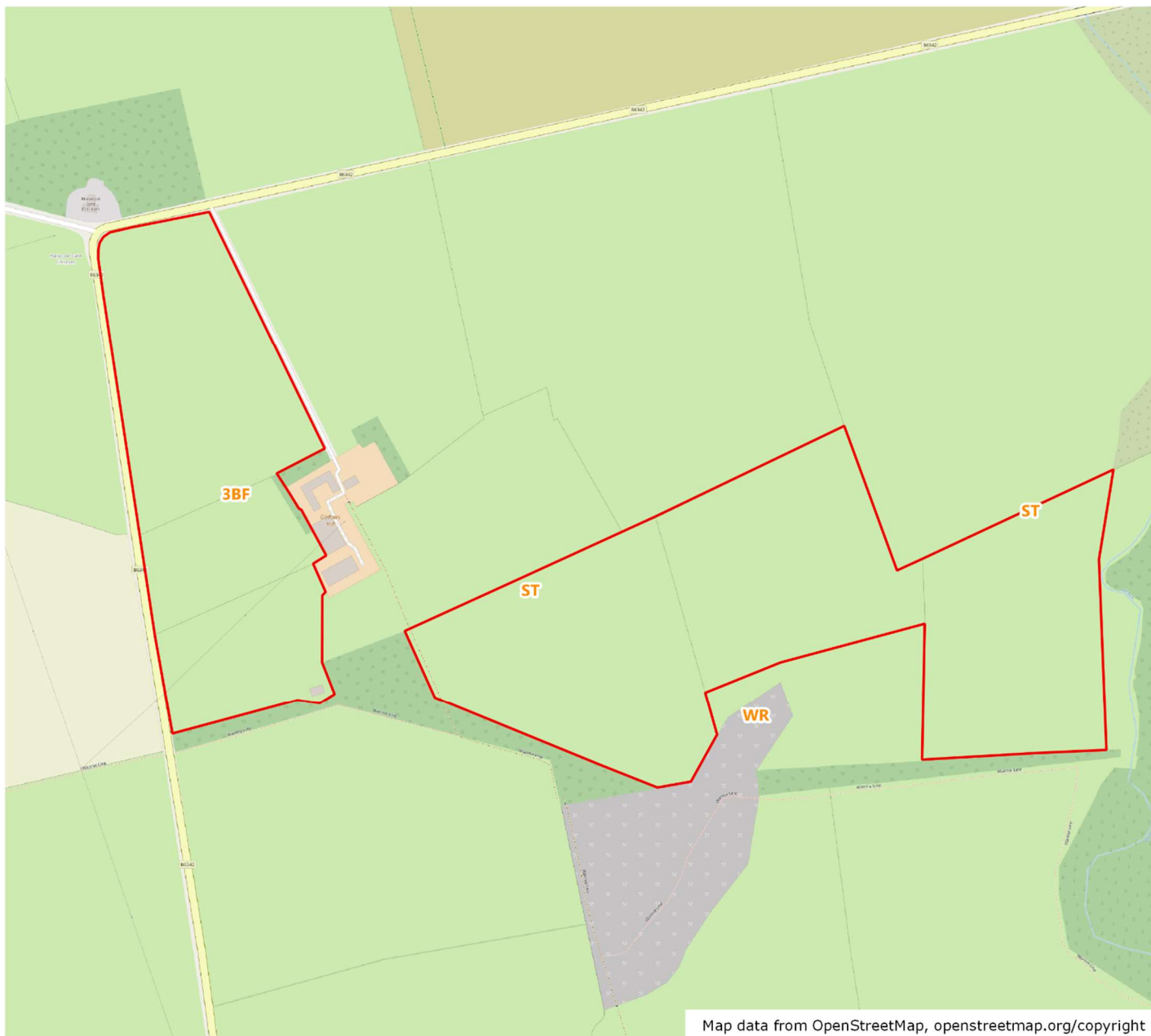
- Gallows Hill South
- Red Listed Bird
- Amber Listed Bird



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Figure 24: Registrations of Red and Amber Species at Gallows Hill south in February 2025

Legend

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



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