



## Chiltern Railways (Bicester to Oxford Improvements) Order

**Winter Bird Survey December 2009 to  
February 2010**

**CD/2.29**

2 September 2010

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Chiltern Railways

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September 2010

Reference 0110147

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For and on behalf of  
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Approved by: Bruce Davidson

Signed:



Position: Partner

Date: 02 September 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Summary

- This report presents the results of a survey of the wintering bird community along the railway corridor between Bicester and Oxford. The survey was conducted over nine days between 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 and 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.
- The survey found a total of 78 bird species using habitats within the corridor.
- The survey found three species which are included in Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive. These were Bittern, Red Kite and Kingfisher.
- Bittern was noted at Bicester Wetland Refuge on a single date during the cold weather in January 2010 and will have been a transient individual.
- Red Kite was noted in five areas. Each record involved one or two birds foraging overhead or perched in trees.
- Single kingfishers were noted in four locations: Bicester Wetland Refuge, Northfield Farm, Hinksey fields and Hinksey Ponds.
- The survey found seven species which are specially protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. These were Bittern, Red Kite, Ruff, Green Sandpiper, Kingfisher, Fieldfare and Redwing.
- Ruff and Green Sandpiper are thinly distributed winter visitors to the UK while Fieldfare and Redwing are common winter visitors. The Schedule 1 listing of these species refers to their rare status as breeding species in the UK.
- Eleven species on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern were found. These were lapwing (2 areas), dunlin (1), ruff (1), skylark (5), fieldfare (12), song thrush (13), redwing (11), starling (7), house sparrow (1), linnet (1) and yellowhammer (4).
- Eleven species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority list were noted. These were bittern, lapwing, skylark, dunnoek, song thrush, starling, house sparrow, linnet, bullfinch, yellowhammer and reed bunting.
- The areas with the highest species diversity were Bicester Wetland Refuge (51 species), Wendlebury Meads (46) and Port Meadow (45) Northfield Farm (41). Four areas produced between 33 and 39 species.

## 1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a survey of the wintering bird community along the railway corridor between Bicester and Oxford. The survey was conducted over nine days between 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 and 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.

This survey follows breeding bird surveys of the corridor in 2009. That survey identified sites which might be of potential winter bird interest, in particular, to wildfowl, waders and barn owl.

The sites given as examples of those where further coverage would be valuable included:

- Bicester Wetland Reserve,
- Wendlebury Meads,
- The route section between Islip and Brookfurlong Farm,
- Northfield Farm,
- the Middle Farm area,
- Port Meadow,
- Osney Meadow,
- areas adjacent to Hinksey Lake, and,
- Hinksey Lake.

The winter survey looked at all these areas and a few additional ones.

The survey objectives included determining:

- the presence and status of any specially protected species, such as those included in Annex 1 of the EU Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds or in Schedule 1 (Part 1) of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended),
- species diversity and the size of species' populations at each of the sites, especially for those which are included in the recently revised Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton *et al*, 2009),
- the importance of wetland and open farmland habitats for wintering wildfowl and waders.

## 2. Survey methodology

### 2.1 Survey timing

Surveys were conducted in December 2009 and in January and February, 2010. Each of the three surveys involved three days of survey along the corridor. Survey effort was targeted at habitats and areas/locations which held reasonable potential to be of at least moderate interest to birds. Table 1 shows the timings of the survey visits.

**Table 1.** Sites and areas surveyed during the 2009-10 winter and the dates on which surveys occurred.

	Area	1	2	3
1	Bicester Wetland Nature Reserve	16 Dec	13/1	26/2
2	Wendlebury Ponds	16 Dec	13/1	26/2
3	Wendlebury Meads and Mansoor Closes SSSI	16 Dec	13/1	26/2
4	Islip to Brookfurlong Farm	-	15/1	27/2
5	Northfield Farm	18 Dec	15/1	27/2
6	Middle Farm	18 Dec	15/1	27/2
7	Canalside Meadows	-		27/2
	Wolvercote Lake	17 Dec	15/1	27/2
10	Port Meadow SAC	17 Dec	14/1	25/2
11	Burgess Field Nature Park	-	14/1	-
12	Hook Meadow and Trap Grounds SSSI	17 Dec	14/1	-
13	Trap Grounds reedbed SLINC	17 Dec	14/1	25/2
14	Osney Meadow	17 Dec	14/1	25/2
15	Between Osney Meadow and industrial estate	17 Dec	14/1	25/2
17	Hinksey fields	17 Dec	14/1	25/2
18	Hinksey Ponds SLINC	17 Dec	14/1	25/2
19	Hinksey Lake	17 Dec	14/1	25/2

## 2.2 Methods of survey

Winter bird communities differ in many respects to those of the breeding season. The main changes involve:

- much reduced territoriality and the formation of wide-ranging mixed species flocks,
- greatly increased mobility of populations: weather factors can result in long distance movements of birds arriving in or departing from an area.

These factors can result in considerable differences in the numbers of species and population sizes in an area over short time periods.

Due to these variations and to ensure that the survey results fairly reflect the value of the habitats to birds it is necessary to conduct several visits through the winter period.

In the habitats found along the railway corridor all areas considered likely to be of reasonable to high bird interest were surveyed on all three visits. Other areas which were thought likely to be of low importance were surveyed on just one or two visits.

The winter bird survey methodology involved a slow thorough walkover of each area recording the numbers of individuals present in each habitat. This involved walking all open ground (except within arable crops) and lengths of hedgerows and watercourse. Stubble fields and pastures were crossed several times in order to flush secretive species. Woodland areas were slowly walked, passing within at least 10 metres of all parts.

All birds were mapped so that the data could be analysed subsequently and habitats of particular importance could be identified.

## 2.3 Weather conditions during the 2009-10 winter bird survey

Table 2 shows the weather conditions on each date of the winter survey. In common with much of the UK, the area was affected by cold weather and snow cover in January. Most of the area became frozen hard and large numbers of birds left for milder regions.

Table 2. Weather conditions on each of the nine dates of the winter bird survey.

Date	Weather conditions
16 December, 2009	Calm. 8/8 cloud, occasional rain. 0°C.
17 December	NE 2-4. 1/8 cloud. Hard frost becoming 4°C by 1200.
18 December	N-NE 3-4. 3/8 cloud, snow showers. -3°C.
13 January, 2010	Calm. 8/8, snow all a.m. with <20cm already lying and water frozen. -3°C at 0800, +1°C by 1200.
14 January	Calm. 8/8. Fog and rain early. Lying snow. 0-1°C.
15 January	Calm. 8/8. Dry. Lying snow. 0-1°C.
25 February	Calm. 6/8 cloud. Rain showers, snow gone. Mild, 6°C.
26 February	SW 2-3 incr.4-6. 6/8-8/8 cloud. 5°C.
27 February	SW 2-3. 4/8-8/8 cloud. Showers. 4°C.

### 3. Results and assessment

#### 3.1 Survey findings

The survey identified a total of 78 bird species using habitats within the corridor. Table 3 lists 18 species recorded which are included in at least one of four levels of conservation importance.

Table 4 shows the numbers of each species in each of the 16 winter survey areas. This shows either the highest count of each species in each area or indicates that the species was present but not counted (p).

**Table 3.** Bird species of conservation importance found within the Chiltern Railway corridor survey area, December 2009 to February 2010. The four columns are:

Annex 1            Annex 1 of the EU Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds  
 Schedule 1        Schedule 1 (Part 1) of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981  
 BOCC Red List    Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern  
 UK BAP            Included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority list.  
 SAP = Species Action Plans exist for the species.

Species	Annex 1	Schedule 1	BOCC Red List	UK BAP
Bittern	•	•		• <sup>SAP</sup>
Red Kite	•	•		
Lapwing			•	•
Dunlin			•	
Ruff		•	•	
Green Sandpiper		•		
Kingfisher	•	•		
Skylark			•	• <sup>SAP</sup>
Dunnock				•
Fieldfare		•	•	
Song Thrush			•	• <sup>SAP</sup>
Redwing		•	•	
Starling			•	•
House Sparrow			•	•
Linnet			•	• <sup>SAP</sup>

Bullfinch				● SAP
Yellowhammer			●	●
Reed Bunting				● SAP

**Table 4.** Chiltern Railway winter birds. This table gives details of the birds recorded in each of the 16 winter survey areas. This shows either the highest count of each species in each area or indicates that the species was present but not counted (p).

The conservation status of species is also shown.

*EU Annex 1* = species included in Annex 1 of the EU Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds

**BOLD UPPER CASE** = species protected under Schedule 1 (Part 1) of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended)

**Bold, lower case** = species on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton *et al*, 2009)

UK BAP = species included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority list.

UK BAP		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19
	Mute Swan	2				7				7					2	2	2
	Greylag Goose									360*							
	Canada Goose	29								5						36	4
	Shelduck									1							
	Wigeon								2	1600							
	Gadwall	7								14							
	Teal	180	82	1						800		2	5				
	Mallard	44	4	10		6			10	49			2	5			9
	Pintail									6							
	Shoveler	5								38							65
	Pochard																18
	Tufted Duck	3							5	11							18
	Red-legged Partridge			28	12												
	Ring-necked Pheasant	1	3	25	11	2											
	Little Grebe	1							2								
	Great Crested Grebe									5							2
	Cormorant								1	9					1		2
●	<b>BITTERN</b>	1															
	Grey Heron	6		1		1								2	1		1

UK BAP		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19
	<b>RED KITE</b> <i>EU Annex 1</i>	2	1	1		1				1							
	Sparrowhawk	1	1	1		1		1		1			1				
	Common Buzzard	1	2	2	1	2	2										
	Kestrel	1	1	1		1	1			2	1			1	2		1
	Water Rail		1														
	Moorhen	22	1	1		9	2	3	5	8	2		4	1	4	3	6
	Coot	10							10	32							55
	Golden Plover					6				16							
●	<b>Lapwing</b>			10						280							
	Knot									1							
	<b>Dunlin</b>									1							
	<b>RUFF</b>									45							
	Jack Snipe	1		1													
	Common Snipe	37		22						4					3		
	Redshank									4							
	<b>GREEN SANDPIPER</b>	3				2											
	Black-headed Gull	2		30	4	5	2			230				3			130
	Common Gull									1							
	Lesser Black-backed Gull									24							1
	Stock Dove	2	3	10	2	2	3								13		
	Woodpigeon	15	150	150	20	55	20	35		p	p	5	30	p	120	50	p
	Collared Dove	2		5		4								p			p
	Little Owl			1													
	<b>KINGFISHER</b> <i>EU Annex 1</i>	2				1									1	1	
	Green Woodpecker	1	1	2		1		1							2		
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	1		1	1	1			1		1	1	3	1	1
●	<b>Skylark</b>			4	1	1	2			4					2		
	Meadow Pipit			1						8					1		



UK BAP		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19
●	Bullfinch	2	4	7		4	4	4			p	2			4	3	2
●	<b>Yellowhammer</b>		1	12	6	10	2										
●	Reed Bunting	1	4	2			5	1			2		3	1	2	1	
	Total number of species	52	33	48	25	42	30	25	7	47	22	15	22	26	32	24	35

The column numbers in Table 3 refer to the survey areas as follows:

- |                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Bicester WR                     | 2. Wendlebury Ponds           |
| 3. Wendlebury Meads                | 4. Islip to Brookfurlong Farm |
| 5. Northfield Farm                 | 6. Middle Farm                |
| 7. Canalside Meadows               | 8. Wolvercote lake            |
| 10. Port Meadow                    | 11. Burgess Field             |
| 12. Hook Meadow                    | 13. Trap Grounds reedbed      |
| 14. Osney Meadow to Hinksey Fields | 17. Hinksey fields            |
| 18. Hinksey Ponds                  | 19. Hinksey Lake              |

These largely correspond with the site numbers used for the 2009 breeding bird survey except that

- # 8 refers to the lake on the west side of the railway on the north side of the road bridge)
- # 14 includes both # 14 and 15.

Survey areas # 9 (Wolvercote Meadows SSSI) and # 16 (Grandpont) were not covered during the winter bird survey.

### 3.2 Summary of the results for each survey area

The Ordnance Survey grid references shown indicate the approximate centre of each survey area.

#### 1. Bicester Wetland Nature Reserve (OS Grid reference = SP 577 210)

This area of man-made wetland and cattle-grazed pasture lies adjacent to a waste-water treatment works. The wetland includes shallow ponds, scrapes and reed-beds. A tree-lined, shallow stream flows alongside the western edge and there is a wide belt of *salix* and other trees alongside the railway.

Including bittern and jack snipe, which were only seen by other birdwatchers, a total of 52 bird species was recorded here during the winter bird survey. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Bittern, red kite, kingfisher;
Schedule 1	Bittern, red kite, green sandpiper, kingfisher, fieldfare and redwing;
BOCC Red	Song thrush, fieldfare, redwing and starling;
UK BAP	Duncock, song thrush, starling, bullfinch and reed bunting.

Annex 1/Schedule 1 species were noted as follows:

Bittern – One on one date only (26<sup>th</sup>) during the hard weather in January.  
Red Kite – Two overhead on the February visit;  
Green Sandpiper – One in December and up to three in February;  
Kingfisher – One in December and two in February.  
Fieldfare – A common winter thrush: small numbers noted.  
Redwing – A common winter thrush: small numbers noted.

Other species and counts of note included maxima of 180 teal and 37 common snipe.

#### 2. Wendlebury Ponds (SP 564 186)

This site includes two or three fairly large, reed and rush-filled ponds with little open water which run largely parallel with the railway, presumably excavated during the line's construction. They are surrounded by a good variety of native deciduous tree and shrub species including *salix* species, oak and ash. The adjacent farmland is grassland.

Here, the survey recorded a total of 33 bird species. However, in January the area was frozen hard and snow-covered while, on the February visit, cable laying operations on the adjacent railway were causing disturbance.

Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Red kite;
Schedule 1	Red kite, fieldfare and redwing;
BOCC Red	Song thrush, fieldfare, redwing and yellowhammer;
UK BAP	Dunnock, song thrush, bullfinch, yellowhammer and reed bunting.

Annex 1/Schedule 1 species were noted as follows:

Red Kite – One on the January visit.

Fieldfare – A common winter thrush: small numbers noted in December.

Redwing – A common winter thrush: small numbers noted in December.

A count of 82 teal in December was of note while water rail was also recorded.

### 3. Wendlebury Meads and Mansoor Closes SSSI (SP 560 175)

The west side of the railway is largely arable except for an area north of Holts Farm buildings, Woodsides Meadow, which is a BBONT nature reserve. This involves a botanically-rich meadow and high quality, largely blackthorn, hedgerows with oak and ash standards.

On the east side of the railway lies a large area of unimproved, botanically-rich meadowland which is divided by good quality hedgerows with oak and ash standards. The adjacent farmland is largely intensive arable.

A total of 48 bird species was recorded in this area. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Red kite;
Schedule 1	Red kite, fieldfare and redwing;
BOCC Red	Lapwing, skylark, song thrush, fieldfare, redwing, house sparrow, starling and yellowhammer;
UK BAP	Lapwing, skylark, dunnock, song thrush, house sparrow, starling, bullfinch, yellowhammer and reed bunting.

Annex 1/Schedule 1 species were noted as follows:

Red Kite – Single birds noted on each winter visit.

Fieldfare – At least 410 present in February.

Redwing – Small numbers in January, 50+ in February.

Other species included up to 22 common snipe and a jack snipe in December.

### 4. Islip to Brookfurlong Farm (SP 532 150)

This section of the route is largely arable farmland. Trackside trees and bushes are relatively sparse along this stretch.

The survey recorded a total of 25 bird species. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Nil;
Schedule 1	Fieldfare and redwing;
BOCC Red	Skylark, song thrush, fieldfare, redwing, linnet and yellowhammer;
UK BAP	Skylark, dunnoek, song thrush, linnet and yellowhammer.

Annex 1/Schedule 1 species were noted as follows:

Fieldfare – A common winter thrush: small numbers noted in December and February.

Redwing – A common winter thrush: small numbers noted in December and February.

#### 5. Northfield Farm (SP 516 133)

This survey area included the River Cherwell from the A41 to the River Ray confluence and the largely arable farmland on either side. The river is lined with deciduous trees.

A total of 42 bird species was recorded in this area. However, in addition to the hard weather in January, cable laying operations on the adjacent railway in February displaced birds from the area.

Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Red kite and kingfisher;
Schedule 1	Red kite, green sandpiper, kingfisher, fieldfare and redwing;
BOCC Red	Skylark, song thrush, fieldfare, redwing and yellowhammer;
UK BAP	Skylark, dunnoek, song thrush, bullfinch and yellowhammer.

Annex 1/Schedule 1 species were noted as follows:

Red Kite – One soaring over on the December visit.

Green Sandpiper - Two on the river in December.

Kingfisher – One along the river in December.

Fieldfare – A common winter thrush: small numbers noted in December.

Redwing – A common winter thrush: small numbers noted in December.

Other birds were rather unremarkable with six golden plover in the fields in December.

#### 6. Middle Farm (SP 507 127)

This area is largely arable farmland although there is a large, willow-fringed pond just west of Middle Farm buildings and linear ponds on both sides of the railway at the Middle Farm crossing.

A total of 30 bird species was recorded in this area. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Nil;
Schedule 1	Fieldfare and redwing;
BOCC Red	Skylark, song thrush, fieldfare, redwing, linnet and yellowhammer;
UK BAP	Skylark, dunnock, song thrush, linnet, bullfinch, yellowhammer and reed bunting.

Annex 1/Schedule 1 species were noted as follows:

Fieldfare and Redwing – Small numbers of both species noted in January.

As with sites 2 and 5, as well as the January freeze, cable-laying operations along the railway caused disturbance during the February survey.

#### 7. Canalside Meadows (SP 492 101)

This is a relatively small but attractive area of wet grassland with rushes, reeds and sedges which has a belt of willows and sallows alongside the canal and mixed mature deciduous trees on its eastern side.

The survey recorded a total of 25 bird species. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Nil;
Schedule 1	Fieldfare and redwing;
BOCC Red	Song thrush, fieldfare, redwing;
UK BAP	Dunnock, song thrush, bullfinch and reed bunting.

Annex 1/Schedule 1 species were noted as follows:

Fieldfare and Redwing – Small numbers of both species noted in January.

#### 8. Wolvercote Green SSSI (SP 495 098)

This is an area of grassland with a rushy, salix-fringed pond. There is also a belt of trees along its western edge fringing the canal.

This area was of low interest during the winter bird survey although the lake adjacent lake west of the railway on the northern side of the road bridge held

very small numbers of seven common waterfowl species in December and February (frozen in January).

#### 10. Port Meadow SAC (SP 495 084)

This is a very large area of open grassland lying between the railway and the River Thames. There is little tree or shrub cover except adjacent to the railway and Burgess Field and around a slow-flowing backwater at the southern end. During this winter the southern part was extensively inundated and held large numbers of waterfowl on the December and February visits when unfrozen (See Table 5 below).

The survey recorded a total of 47 bird species. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1        Red kite;  
 Schedule 1    Red kite and ruff;  
 BOCC Red     Lapwing, dunlin, ruff, skylark, song thrush and starling;  
 UK BAP        Lapwing, skylark, dunnoek, song thrush and starling.

Annex 1/Schedule 1 species were noted as follows:

Red Kite – One on the December visit.

Ruff – 45 were present on the December visit and two in February. With an estimated 700 birds in the UK in winter (BTO Web) the December count would amount to ca. 6% of the population.

**Table 5.** Numbers of selected waterfowl and wader species at Port Meadow, Oxford, during the winter bird survey visits: December, 2009 – February, 2010.

	December 2009	January 2010	February 2010
Shelduck	0	0	1
Wigeon	1,600	4	1,200
Gadwall	0	0	14
Teal	800	1	280
Mallard	49	18	44
Pintail	0	0	6
Shoveler	35	0	38
Coot	32	15	7
Golden Plover	1	0	16
Lapwing	170	0	280
Knot	0	0	1
Dunlin	1	0	0
Ruff	45	0	2
Redshank	1	1	4

### 11. Burgess Field Nature Park (SP 498 086)

This is a fairly large area of fields and hedgerows, the fields supporting dense, tall herbage and sparse, patchy scrub and young trees. The area is fringed by a belt of tall deciduous trees of various species approaching maturity.

In this area a total of just 22 common bird species was recorded. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Nil;
Schedule 1	Fieldfare;
BOCC Red	Song thrush and fieldfare;
UK BAP	Dunnock, song thrush, bullfinch and reed bunting.

Fieldfare – Five on the January visit.

### 12. Hook Meadow and Trap Grounds SSSI (SP 500 089)

This section is broken into three parts by the branching of the railway north from Oxford. The southernmost section is the largest and includes an attractive, cattle-grazed pair of wet meadows with reed-beds at their southern end and fringing, mature alders and willows along the southern and western sides. Between the branching of the line towards Bicester and the mainline is a small area of tall herbage and scrub while a further small area of tall herbage lies on the west side of the main line.

The winter survey recorded just 15 bird species in this area. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Nil;
Schedule 1	Nil;
BOCC Red	Song thrush;
UK BAP	Dunnock, song thrush and bullfinch.

### 13. Trap Grounds Reedbed SLINC (SP 503 081)

This is a small area of mature woodland with a small lake surrounded by reeds. It is a managed local nature reserve.

A total of 22 bird species was recorded here. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Nil;
Schedule 1	Redwing;
BOCC Red	Song thrush and redwing;
UK BAP	Dunnock, song thrush and reed bunting.

Other species included teal (5) in January but mostly just common and widespread species were found.

#### 14. Osney Meadow and south to the Seacourt Stream (SP 495 058)

Osney Meadow is an area of floodplain which is botanically rich and currently included in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Tall mature deciduous trees run along both side of the public right of way that crosses the site and tree and the western and eastern sides are fringed with salix and other trees and shrubs. Scrub cover increases towards the northern end of the area. Similar pastures and tree belts continue south on the west side of the industrial estate.

A total of 26 bird species was recorded here Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Nil;
Schedule 1	Fieldfare and redwing;
BOCC Red	Song thrush, fieldfare and redwing;
UK BAP	Dunnock, song thrush and reed bunting.

Annex 1/Schedule 1 species were noted as follows:

Fieldfare – 50 in February.

Redwing – Present on all visits, 65 in February was the highest count.

#### 17. Hinksey Stream fields (SP 505 050)

This is a similar area in some respects to Osney Meadow being an area of floodplain meadow which is currently included in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The large fields are currently managed for hay and grazing and there are several good quality hedgerows and many large deciduous trees. The Hinksey Stream flows through the area and the Seacourt Stream forms its northern boundary.

A total of 32 bird species was recorded in this area. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Kingfisher;
Schedule 1	Kingfisher, fieldfare and redwing;
BOCC Red List	Skylark, song thrush, fieldfare, redwing and starling;
UK BAP	Skylark, dunnock, song thrush, starling, bullfinch and reed bunting.

Annex 1/Schedule 1 species were noted as follows:

Kingfisher - Single birds were noted in December and February.

Fieldfare - 42 in January and 35 in February.

Redwing – 30 in February.

#### 18. Hinksey Ponds SLINC (SP 512 045)

This area includes two small fishing ponds on the west side of the railway opposite Hinksey Lake which are surrounded by trees and managed as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. The Hinksey Stream forms its western boundary.

The survey recorded a total of 24 bird species at this site. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Kingfisher;
Schedule 1	Kingfisher, fieldfare and redwing;
BOCC Red List	Song thrush, fieldfare and redwing;
UK BAP	Dunnock, song thrush, bullfinch and reed bunting.

Annex 1/Schedule 1 species were noted as follows:

Kingfisher – One in December.

Fieldfare – 10 in December.

Redwing – 10-15 in December and January.

Other birds of note included 65 siskins feeding in alders in December.

#### 19. Hinksey Lake (SP 512 049)

This is a large freshwater lake lying between the railway and a heavily-used public park. The latter contains many mature deciduous and coniferous trees. The lake is fringed by a belt of *salix* and other trees along the railway bank and around its northern and southern ends.

The survey recorded a total of 35 bird species at this site. Species included in the four categories of conservation importance shown in Table 3 were as follows:

Annex 1	Nil;
Schedule 1	Fieldfare;
BOCC Red List	Fieldfare and starling;
UK BAP	Dunnock, starling and bullfinch.

Waterfowl totals are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6.** Numbers of selected waterfowl on Hinksey Lake, Oxford, during the winter bird survey visits: December, 2009 – February, 2010.

	December 2009	January 2010	February 2010
Mute Swan	0	2	0
Canada Goose	0	2	4
Mallard	9	9	4
Shoveler	13	65	0
Pochard	18	2	1
Tufted Duck	9	18	4
Great Crested Grebe	1	0	2
Cormorant	1	0	2
Coot	39	55	27

#### 4. **References**

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