

A photograph showing the backs of two people wearing high-visibility yellow-green safety jackets and hard hats (one white, one yellow) looking out over a calm sea under a cloudy sky. The person on the left is wearing a white hard hat with 'Concept' written on it. The person on the right is wearing a yellow hard hat.

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Environmental Impact Assessment Report  
Volume 3, Appendix 23.4: Breeding Birds Report 2023  
**MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm**  
December 2025

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 About this document

- 1.1.1.1 MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as ‘the Project’) is wholly owned by ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited (SPR). MarramWind Limited, a subsidiary of SPR, is the Applicant for the Project.
- 1.1.1.2 MarramWind Limited (the Applicant) requires onshore ornithological surveys for the proposed onshore infrastructure associated with the Project, located 75 kilometres (km) off the north-east coast of Scotland.
- 1.1.1.3 WSP was appointed by MarramWind to undertake a breeding bird survey for the onshore component of the Project outside Peterhead. The survey was completed to inform the planning application.
- 1.1.1.4 This Report describes the methods used to gather and record information and summarises results of surveys designed to provide baseline information on breeding bird species.

## 1.2 Background and Scope

- 1.2.1.1 All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and there are no licensing provisions for development works that would otherwise result in an offence being committed. On this basis, appropriate measures to avoid the damage or disturbance of wild birds and their nests will require consideration.
- 1.2.1.2 Given the potential risk of disturbing nesting birds or damaging their nests as a result of development proposals, breeding bird surveys were undertaken to collect baseline data on the breeding bird community within the Study Area (as described in **Section 1.3**) during the breeding season. The aim of these surveys was to understand the composition, distribution and likely sensitivity of the breeding assemblage within the Study Area, with respect to any future proposals.
- 1.2.1.3 Surveys focussed<sup>1</sup> on collecting information on the presence, abundance, distribution of breeding birds of conservation concern. These are species listed on Annex 1 of the EU Bird Directive, species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (WCA), and species on the Red and Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021).

## 1.3 Study Area Description

- 1.3.1.1 The Study Area (**Figure 1: Study area, Appendix C**) is located in north-eastern Aberdeenshire. It covers 101 km<sup>2</sup>, much of which comprises agricultural land. This is split into cropland (e.g. potato farming) and pastures (typically for cows and sheep). Significant tracts of wetland, coniferous forestry, and broad-leaved or mixed woodland occur across the area, along with several villages and scattered farmsteads. The port town of Peterhead is located at the eastern edge of the Study Area. Coastal habitats and elements of tourist infrastructure are present along the North Sea coast in the east.

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<sup>1</sup> All species were recorded during surveys, however the focus was placed on recording birds of conservation concern.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Desk-based Review

- 2.1.1.1 Baseline data collection and a review of literature have been undertaken to obtain information on the Study Area. Baseline data was gathered from within 10km of the Study Area, as this is the maximum core range of key Scottish breeding species associated with designated sites (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2016). Data sources included:
- Details of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar Sites within 10km, and ornithological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs) within 5km of the Study Area;
  - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) for details on RSPB nature reserves within 10km;
  - British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) data;
  - North-East Scotland Biodiversity Record Centre (NESBReC), the Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC) North-East Scotland Bird Recorder, and other relevant bodies for species records within 10km;
  - Scottish Ornithologists Club (2024). Online Scottish Bird Report
  - Francis, I & Cook, M, (2011). *The Breeding Birds of North-East Scotland Including Part of the Cairngorms National Park*. Scottish Ornithologists' Club; and
  - Scottish Ornithologists Club (2024). 2022 North-East Scotland Bird Report. Published by the SOC, North East Scotland branch.
- 2.1.1.2 The potential breeding status of bird species recorded within the Study Area was assessed; this was based on:
- Breeding status within North-East Aberdeenshire, and
  - Dates of record occurrence.

### 2.2 Consultation

- 2.2.1.1 Consultation was undertaken with NatureScot, Aberdeenshire Council and the RSPB, to agree the appropriate breeding bird survey methodology and coverage. **Table 2.1** details the dates and outcomes of, and parties to, the consultation meetings.

**Table 2.1 Consultation Details**

Organisation	Date	Response	Outcome
Aberdeenshire Council	14 March 2023	The Breeding Bird Survey Methodology was provided to Aberdeenshire Council for review. Following a summary presentation of the onshore ecology survey method statement,	Surveys followed the survey method statement as presented and detailed in this report, which reflects the methodology agreed with Aberdeenshire Council.

Organisation	Date	Response	Outcome
		which included the breeding bird survey scope and methods, Aberdeenshire Council confirmed agreement with the survey proposals outlined and had no concerns regarding the breeding bird survey methodology, survey programme or geographical coverage.	
	27 June 2023	A progress update on ecological surveys being undertaken on the Project was provided to Aberdeenshire Council, including breeding bird surveys, which were confirmed to be nearing completion. No data was presented and no additional comment was provided by Aberdeenshire Council.	
NatureScot	16 March 2023	In response to the Scoping Report, NatureScot confirmed agreement with the target species, survey methodologies (including breeding bird surveys) and embedded mitigation presented.	<p>Surveys follow NatureScot Standing advice.</p> <p>The level of survey effort is considered appropriate to establish the breeding assemblage within the Study Area and provide suitable baseline to inform an ecological impact assessment.</p>
	19 July 2023	Following a summary presentation of the breeding bird survey method statement, no additional comment was provided.	
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	12 June 2023	The Breeding Bird Survey Methodology was provided to RSPB for review. A summary of survey methodologies including Breeding Bird surveys was also presented. RSPB stated that they would not be able to provide comment on method statements, but that if they aligned with published NatureScot	

Organisation	Date	Response	Outcome
		guidance, they would be unlikely to hold an objection.	

## 2.3 Field Surveys

### 2.3.1 Field Survey Overview

2.3.1.1 Generic breeding bird surveys were undertaken following an adapted method based on the BTO's Common Birds Census (CBC) methodology (Gilbert *et al.*, 1998), which aligns with NatureScot (2022) Standing Advice. Six pre-defined transects (**Figure 2: Breeding bird survey transects, Appendix C**) were walked by experienced bird surveyors during the 2023 breeding season, including:

- North East Transect;
- North West Transect;
- Ugie Transect;
- Formatine and Buchan Way Transect;
- West Transect; and
- South Transect.

2.3.1.2 The transects were selected based on presence of publicly accessible land and representative coverage of the Study Area. Each transect was walked by an experienced bird surveyor, once per survey. Surveyors would periodically stop to scan habitats of particular interest, such as trees, field margins or ditches, as well as opportunistically throughout each field. Minor modifications to the transect route occurred where changes occurred to the access of certain areas (see **Section 2.3.3**). Transects were typically surveyed at two-week intervals from mid-April until mid-June, with two surveys in April and early May and mid-May, one in late May/early June, and one in mid-June.

2.3.1.3 All surveys were planned for days with favourable weather conditions, avoiding periods of heavy rain, strong or cold winds, therefore minimising variation in bird activity levels due to weather conditions. All surveys were planned to commence at least an hour after dawn and to be completed no later than midday. The start point and direction of transects were altered between surveys, to ensure that certain parts of the Study Area did not receive systematically better coverage, due to a possible decline in bird song output later in the morning.

2.3.1.4 A custom-built, high-resolution digital map was designed for field use with ArcGIS Collector and Field Maps software. Surveyors used binoculars and a telescope, where relevant, to record birds and map these using a tablet with the appropriate software packages. The location of each bird detected (visually and/or aurally) was mapped using standard two-letter BTO Codes, and bird activity was recorded using standard behavioural code categories (Marchant, 1983).

Distribution survey dates, times, surveyors and weather conditions are detailed in **Appendix A**. Weather-related constraints are described in more detail in **Section 2.3.3**.

### 2.3.2 Analysis

- 2.3.2.1 On completion of the field survey, results were collated and analysed to provide maps of indicative territory centre-points, made across all the surveys. Territory mapping analysis involved the surveyor (an experienced ornithologist) looking for spatial groupings of song registrations and other indicators of breeding behaviour.
- 2.3.2.2 Territory locations were derived by looking at maps from the different visits in combination, as per the CBC methodology. It should therefore be noted that the locations do not necessarily represent specific nest locations, which is not the aim of this survey method. Instead, they provide a representative snapshot of the breeding assemblage across each of the areas surveyed.

### 2.3.3 Limitations

- 2.3.3.1 As access to private land was limited to less than half the Study Area at the time of survey planning, surveys were designed to provide representative coverage from publicly accessible transects, targeting the areas identified in **Section 1.3**. The survey therefore provides a broad sample of the breeding bird assemblage across the season, rather than a more standardised census provided by the CBC, where all habitats and habitat features (i.e. ditches, hedgerows, woodland, pools) are walked to within 50m. Nevertheless, the level of survey effort is considered appropriate to establish the breeding assemblage within the Study Area and provides a suitable baseline to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- 2.3.3.2 While surveys were planned for days with fair weather, actual conditions during surveys were not always optimal. The North West Transect on 12 April 2023 suffered from reduced visibility (700 metres (m)) at the start. On 6 May 2023, the Ugie Transect suffered from fog throughout the survey. However, in almost all cases, a full survey was completed without weather constraints.
- 2.3.3.3 During the first survey on 13 April 2023, the West Transect incorporated an additional area (beyond the original Survey Area) that proved not possible to survey completely before midday. The transect was therefore finished in the late afternoon and early evening, when bird activity for most species rises again after a quiet period in the early afternoon. The Ugie Transect on 14 April 2023 was also finished after midday, due to an unforeseen access restriction to part of the planned route. After this first round of surveys, the transect routes were adapted to take these length and access restrictions into account.
- 2.3.3.4 An additional section of the South Transect was added in late May to capture areas that had become of strategic interest since the original survey design.
- 2.3.3.5 The North East and Ugie Transects were surveyed six times over the course of the season. Owing to a combination of changing priorities within the survey areas, the West and Formartine and Buchan Way Transects were surveyed five times, the North West Transect four times and the South Transect three times.
- 2.3.3.6 These limitations reduced the amount of data available to inform the baseline. However, the data set captured comprises 3,904 breeding bird records collected during 21 days of fieldwork in the 2023 breeding season. Performing three visits is standard industry practice for several UK breeding species, and it should be considered that some sites receive no targeted breeding bird surveys due to low potential interest. This extensive data set is therefore considered 'fit for purpose' in terms of providing a broad sample of the breeding bird assemblage across the Study Area.



## 3. Results

### 3.1 Desk-based Review

#### 3.1.1 Designated Sites

- 3.1.1.1 Sites of ornithological interest, for which a breeding species or a breeding bird assemblage is a notifying interest feature, were identified within a 10km buffer of the Study Area. Designated Sites are detailed below and illustrated in **Figure 3: Designated ornithological sites, Appendix C**.

**Table 3.1 Designated Sites**

Designated site	Qualifying features	Distance and direction from the Study Area
<b>Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA</b>	Qualifying features of the SPA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black-legged kittiwake (breeding);</li> <li>• Common guillemot (breeding);</li> <li>• Herring gull (breeding);</li> <li>• European shag (breeding); and</li> <li>• Northern fulmar (breeding).</li> </ul>	<b>Adjacent</b>
<b>Bullers of Buchan Coast SSSI</b>	Qualifying features of the SSSI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seabird colony;</li> <li>• Kittiwake (breeding);</li> <li>• Guillemot (breeding); and</li> <li>• Shag (breeding).</li> </ul>	<b>1.6km, south-east</b>
<b>Loch of Strathbeg SPA and Ramsar</b>	Qualifying features of the SPA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnacle goose (non-breeding);</li> <li>• Greylag goose (non-breeding);</li> <li>• Pink-footed goose (non-breeding);</li> <li>• Sandwich tern (breeding);</li> <li>• Teal (non-breeding);</li> <li>• Whooper swan (non-breeding);</li> <li>• Goldeneye (non-breeding); and</li> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage (non-breeding).</li> </ul> Qualifying features of the Ramsar site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnacle goose (non-breeding – wintering);</li> <li>• Pink-footed goose (non-breeding – passage); and</li> <li>• Whooper swan (non-breeding – wintering).</li> </ul>	<b>5.1km, north</b>
<b>Loch of Strathbeg SSSI</b>	Qualifying features of the SSSI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breeding bird assemblage;</li> <li>• Eutrophic loch;</li> <li>• Fen meadow; and</li> <li>• Coastal geomorphology of Scotland.</li> </ul>	<b>3.8km, north</b>

Designated site	Qualifying features	Distance and direction from the Study Area
<b>Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA and Ramsar</b>	<p>Qualifying features of the SPA site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandwich tern (breeding);</li> <li>• Common tern (breeding);</li> <li>• Little tern (breeding);</li> <li>• Pink-footed goose (non-breeding);</li> <li>• Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding);</li> <li>• Eider (breeding);</li> <li>• Lapwing (non-breeding); and</li> <li>• Redshank (non-breeding).</li> </ul> <p>Qualifying features of the Ramsar site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pink-footed goose (non-breeding – passage);</li> <li>• Sandwich tern (breeding).</li> </ul>	<b>6.5km, south</b>

### Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA (including Bullers of Buchan Coast SSSI)

- 3.1.1.2 Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA is a stretch of southeast facing cliff in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The 15km stretch of cliffs runs south of Peterhead, broken only by the sandy beach of Cruden Bay. The seaward extension extends approximately 2km into the marine environment to include the seabed, water column and surface. It is designated for breeding guillemot (8,640 pairs, 1.2% of GB population), fulmar (1,765 pairs, 0.3% of the GB population), herring gull (4,292 pairs, 2.7% of the GB population), kittiwake (30,452 pairs, 6.2% of the GB population), shag (1,045 pairs, 2.7% of the GB population) and its overall breeding seabird assemblage of 95,000 individuals.
- 3.1.1.3 The Bullers of Buchan Coast SSSI is situated within the SPA further to the south of the Study Area, and is also notified for its breeding seabird colony, including kittiwake, guillemot and shag.

### Loch of Strathbeg Designations

- 3.1.1.4 The Loch of Strathbeg SSSI is designated, in part, for its overall breeding bird assemblage (including mute swan, shelduck, redshank, teal, tufted duck, water rail, common tern, marsh harrier, sedge and grasshopper warblers and reed bunting).
- 3.1.1.5 The combined Loch of Strathbeg SPA and Ramsar designations comprise one of the most important sites for passage and wintering wildfowl in Britain. The numbers of whooper swan and greylag and pink-footed geese are of international importance, representing 1% of Icelandic, 6% of Icelandic and 25% of total Icelandic / Greenlandic populations respectively. In addition, nationally important concentrations of goldeneye frequently occur. Overall, the number of over-wintering waterfowl is of international importance.

### Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA

- 3.1.1.6 Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA qualifies under Article 4.1 of the EU Birds Directive by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the Annex 1 species: Sandwich tern (1989 to 1991, up to 1125 pairs, up to 7% of the GB population); common tern (1989 to 1993, up to 265 pairs, up to 2% of the GB population); and little tern (1989 to 1993, up to 41 pairs, up to 2% of the GB population). The marine component, immediately offshore of the terrestrial area forms the foraging zone for both Sandwich terns

and little terns. The SPA further qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the migratory species: pink-footed goose; and its waterfowl assemblage.

### Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar

- 3.1.1.7 Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch Ramsar site is notified for its breeding population of Sandwich tern, as well as its non-breeding population of pink-footed goose and wintering waterfowl assemblage.

### Desk Study Data

- 3.1.1.8 Data received from the North East Scotland Biodiversity Record Centre NESBReC) for the years from 2013 to 2022 (inclusive) are summarised in **Appendix B Table B.1**. The birds recorded included 91 species; of these, 51 are considered potential breeders.
- 3.1.1.9 Data received from the BTO typically concerns wintering species. However, WeBS data from Peterhead Bay and Sandford Bay from 2016 to 2020 provided several records from the breeding season (taken as April to August inclusive). These are summarised in **Table 3.2**.

**Table 3.2 Summary of BTO Breeding Season Records 2016-2020**

Species	Total Counted	Potential Breeder at Peterhead or Sandford Bay
Bar-tailed godwit	1	No
Black-headed gull	502	Yes
Common gull*	276	Yes
Common sandpiper*	3	Yes
Common tern	5	Yes
Common/Arctic tern	7	Yes
Cormorant*	88	Yes
Curlew	41	Yes
Dunlin	4	No
Eider (excluding Shetland population)	280	Yes
Great black-backed gull*	458	Yes
Grey heron*	21	Yes

Species	Total Counted	Potential Breeder at Peterhead or Sandford Bay
Herring gull	4,325	Yes
Lesser black-backed gull*	16	Yes
Mallard*	8	Yes
Oystercatcher*	391	Yes

\* Denotes species not noted in the NESBReC data search.

- 3.1.1.10 Out of the fifteen bird species and one species group recorded, fourteen were considered possible breeders. Eight species (all potential breeders) were not noted in the NESBReC data received. This brings the desk study species total to 109 species, including 69 known or potential breeders.

### SOC Data

- 3.1.1.11 Data received from SOC recorders comprised 276 bird species / groups. Many of the species were vagrants recorded in small numbers and highly unlikely to breed in the Study Area. However, they also included fifty-four potential breeding species not already noted in designated site citations, NESBReC or BTO data. Records of these are summarised in **Appendix B, Table B.2**.
- 3.1.1.12 The Scottish Bird Reports returned a total of 330 bird species/groups from north-east Scotland during the period from 2013 to 2019 (the most recent year for which data was available). However, a large proportion of these species were vagrants with no likelihood of breeding in the Study Area.

## 3.2 Field Surveys

- 3.2.1.1 The 2023 breeding bird surveys recorded a total of 97 bird species. **Figures 4 to 9** show the distribution of Red and Amber-listed and Schedule 1 species breeding territory centres on each transect.
- 3.2.1.2 **Table 3.3** summarises these results, indicating whether species are:
- listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive;
  - listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) (WCA);
  - a species of principal importance on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL); or
  - Birds of Conservation Concern Species status under the latest UK Birds of Conservation Concern assessment (BoCC5; Stanbury *et al.*, 2021) is displayed as green, amber or red.
- 3.2.1.3 Species have been arranged alphabetically as opposed to taxonomically.

**Table 3.3 Summary of Breeding Bird Survey Results April – July 2023**

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
<b>Black-headed gull</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Amber List	0	Four singles on Formartine and Buchan Way, Western and Ugie Transects in April 2023. Two potential pairs on Formartine and Buchan Way and West Transects in April 2023, but not seen subsequently. Flocks of six and seven, plus a single bird in flight, near Peterhead Golf Course in May.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder
<b>Blackbird</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Frequent to abundant across Study Area.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Blackcap</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Occasional on transects away from the North Sea.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Blue tit</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Frequent across majority of Study Area.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Bullfinch</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Amber List	2	Single adult recorded in flight once on West Transect. Seven records of one to three birds at eastern end of Formartine and Buchan Way Transect, and one on	Confirmed breeder



Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
			North West Transect. One to two pairs briefly on Ugie Transect east of Rora in June, though not confirmed as holding territory.	
<b>Buzzard</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Occasional across Study Area, except on South Transect, away from North Sea.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder
<b>Carrion crow</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Frequent to abundant across Study Area.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Chaffinch</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Frequent across Study Area.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Chiffchaff</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Occasional to frequent across Study Area away from North Sea.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Coal tit</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Occasional around Inverugie. Five records east of Rora and one south of Kirktown in May.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Collared dove</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Occasional in north of Study Area. One on West Transect.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
<b>Common gull</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	N/A (flocks) – negligible breeding evidence	Up to 20 near Lunderton, nine south of Thunderton, and five flying east of Inverugie on 12 April 2023. Flocks of eight on Ugie Transect and at Lunderton in June 2023. One bird at Scotstown Head in June 2023.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder
<b>Common scoter</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	0	Raft of 34 recorded on North Sea east of Lunderton on 26 April 2023.	Non-breeder
<b>Cormorant</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Three at Scotstown Head on 5 May, rising to 11 on 1 June 2023.	Non-breeder
<b>Corn bunting</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	3	One singing male west of Kirktown and another on Formartine and Buchan Way Transect in April and May 2023. One singing southeast of Longside in June 2023. Confirmed breeding	Confirmed breeder
<b>Crossbill</b>	Schedule 1, BoCC5 Green List	N/A	One calling in copse at Lunderton on 12 April 2023.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
<b>Cuckoo</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	0	One singing north-east of Rora on 17 May 2023.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder
<b>Curlew</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	0	12 at St Fergus in April 2023. Occasional on Western and South Transects and near Inverugie.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder
<b>Dipper</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	1	Single adult holding territory on River Ugie at Inverugie in June 2023.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder
<b>Dunlin</b>	Annex 1, SBL, BoCC5 Red List	0	Three single records between Scotstown and Peterhead Golf Course in June 2023.	Non-breeder
<b>Dunnock</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Amber List	13	Frequent throughout Study Area, often as singing males.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Eider</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	6	Two singles on North East Transect in April 2023, and two birds together in May. Group of ten off Peterhead Golf Course in April 2023. Up to 19 at Sandhaven Bay in April-May 2023.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
			Flock of 18 past dunes east of Lunderton in June 2023.	
<b>Feral pigeon</b>	Feral	N/A	Two singles recorded in flight on West Transect on 13 April 2023.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder
<b>Gannet</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	0	Nine in flight off dunes southeast of Lunderton on 5 May 2023. Six feeding off Peterhead Golf Course on 1 June 2023.	Non-breeder
<b>Goldcrest</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Occasional, except on North East and West Transects.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder
<b>Golden plover</b>	Annex 1, SBL, BoCC5 Green List	N/A	320 over farmland southeast of St Fergus on 12 April 2023. Likely to represent migrating birds.	Non-breeder
<b>Goldfinch</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Occasional across the Study Area. Peak count of 17 on Peterhead Golf Course on 27 April 2023.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder
<b>Goosander</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Three females present just west of River Ugie mouth on 18 May 2023.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
Grasshopper warbler	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	0	One singing on Formartine and Buchan Way Transect on 3 May 2023. One singing north of Inverugie on 18 May 2023.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder
Great black-backed gull	BoCC5 Amber List	1	Single bird seen twice on Peterhead Golf Course in April 2023.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder
Great spotted woodpecker	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Occasional, primarily in north of Study Area and away from North Sea coast.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder
Great tit	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Frequent within the Study Area.	Confirmed breeder
Greenfinch	BoCC5 Red List	8	Occasional records across the Study Area, primarily as single territorial males.	Confirmed breeder
Grey heron	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	One at mouth of River Ugie on 27 April 2023. One heard near river at Inverugie on 6 May 2023. Two singles east of Lunderton on 14 June 2023.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder



Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
Grey wagtail	BoCC5 Amber List	0	One in flight south of St Fergus on 12 April 2023.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder
Greylag goose	BoCC5 Amber List	0	Two present west of Boddam in April 2023. Three in flight south of Peterhead on 31 May 2023.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder
Guillemot	BoCC5 Amber List	0	A raft of 20 birds was recorded on the North Sea south of Scotstown Head on 12 April 2023. Four on the North Sea, east of Lunderton on 1 June 2023.	Non-breeder
Herring gull	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	N/A (flocks) – breeding evidence present	Frequent close to North Sea, with a peak count of 52 birds north of Peterhead.	Unconfirmed/ possible breeder
House martin	BoCC5 Red List	5	One to two birds in flight over North East Transect, one in flight over North West Transect in April 2023 and up to five in Kirkton in June 2023.	Confirmed breeder
House sparrow	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	N/A (colonial nesting) – breeding evidence present	Fairly frequent across Study Area.	Confirmed breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
Jackdaw	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Frequent across Study Area. Peak flock count of 35 birds on South Transect.	Confirmed breeder
Kestrel	SBL, BoCC5 Amber List	1	One hunting on West Transect in April 2023. Single adult(s) in flight over dunes (three times) and east of Kirktown (once) in April and May 2023.	Confirmed breeder
Kittiwake	BoCC5 Red List	0	15 in flight off Peterhead Golf Course on 12 April 2023, plus four in this area in May and 22 in June 2023. Single bird east of Lunderton on 1 June 2023. Flock of 50 at Scotstown Head on 14 June 2023.	Non-breeder
Lapwing	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	2	Occasional in west of Study Area. Four in fields east of St Fergus in April (displaying) and May 2023.	Confirmed breeder
Lesser black-backed gull	BoCC5 Amber List	1	Four individual records on North East, North West and South Transects in April and May 2023. Two	Confirmed breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
			birds at Ugie mouth on 12 April 2023.	
<b>Lesser redpoll</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	0	One at eastern end of Formartine and Buchan Way Transect on 14 April 2023. One flying over same area on 25 April 2023.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder
<b>Linnet</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	13	Occasional across north and west of Study Area. Peak flock count of 45.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Long-tailed duck</b>	Annex 1, Schedule 1, BoCC5 Red List	0	Raft of 22 birds on North Sea east of Lunderton on 26 April 2023. Considered non-breeding birds.	Non-breeder
<b>Long-tailed tit</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Four in Inverugie on 6 May 2023. Three near Lunderton on 18 May 2023. Two south of Kirkton on 13 June 2023.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Magpie</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Occasional except in north-east of Study Area.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Mallard</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	1	Two in flight in St Fergus area on 13 April 2023. Two single males on North	Confirmed breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
			West Transect on 14 April 2023. Three singles between Rora and Boddam in June 2023.	
Meadow pipit	BoCC5 Amber List	30	Fairly frequent in open semi-natural habitats across the Study Area.	Confirmed breeder
Mistle thrush	BoCC5 Red List	0	One in flight on each of North West and North East Transects in May 2023.	Confirmed breeder
Mute swan	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Four flew over Ugie Transect on 6 May 2023. Two feeding on Ugie Transect on 17 May 2023.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder
Oystercatcher	BoCC5 Amber List	1	Sporadic but widespread sightings within the Study Area. One territory in Lunderton area.	Confirmed breeder
Pheasant	Non-native species	N/A	Frequent to abundant within the Study Area, though usually as lone birds.	Confirmed breeder
Pied wagtail	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Occasional, except on Formartine and Buchan Way Transect.	Confirmed breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
<b>Pink-footed goose</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	0	Flock of 16 in a known wintering field at St Fergus on 12 April 2023. One over Formartine and Buchan Way Transect, 66 south of Formartine and Buchan Way Transect, seven over and one heard on South Transect, and flocks of three, eight and 22 over Ugie transect, all in April 2023.	Non-breeder
<b>Quail</b>	Schedule 1, BoCC5 Amber List	0	Two registrations of the same bird within 50m of each other on Ugie Transect on 13 June 2023.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder
<b>Razorbill</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	0	12 flew past dunes east of Lunderton on 1 June 2023.	Non-breeder
<b>Red-breasted merganser</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	0	One on North Sea between Scotstown Head and Peterhead Golf Course on 26 April 2023.	Non-breeder
<b>Red-legged partridge</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	One south east of Longside on 26 April 2023.	Unconfirmed/likely breeder
<b>Red-throated diver</b>	Annex 1,	N/A	One on North Sea close to shore between Scotstown	Non-breeder



Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
	Schedule 1, SBL, BoCC5 Green List		Head and Peterhead Golf Course on 12 April 2023.	
<b>Redshank</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	0	One in Sandford Bay on 31 May 2023.	Unconfirmed/ possible breeder
<b>Redwing</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Amber List	0	One on Ugie transect on 14 April 2023. Likely to represent a late wintering individual.	Non-breeder
<b>Reed bunting</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Amber List	3	Occasional between North Sea and 3km inland.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Ringed plover</b>	BoCC5 Red List	0	Occasional along beach south of Scotstown Head. Peak count of 17 birds on 1 June 2023.	Unconfirmed/ possible breeder
<b>Robin</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Frequent to abundant within the Study Area, often as lone birds.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Rock pipit</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	One on beach east of Lunderton on 14 June 2023.	Unconfirmed/ possible breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
<b>Rook</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	N/A (colonial nesting) – breeding evidence present	Occasional across Study Area. Largest flock comprised 20 birds on Ugie Transect.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Sand martin</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	13 in dunes south of Scotstown Head in April 2023, and at least ten in May 2023. At least one colony in dunes between April and June 2023. Minimum of three in flight on West Transect in April 2023. One at Inverugie in April 2023.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Sanderling</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	0	Two groups of two on beach east of Lunderton on 1 June 2023. Ten at Scotstown Head on 14 June 2023. Likely late spring migrants.	Non-breeder
<b>Sandwich tern</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Amber List	2	21 at Scotstown Head in April 2023. Three singles off Peterhead Golf Course and at Scotstown Head in May and June 2023. Sixteen feeding at sea off Peterhead Golf Course on 1 June 2023. Groups of two to seven in	Unconfirmed/ possible breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
			Sandhaven Bay from 31 May to 15 June 2023.	
<b>Sedge warbler</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	49	Frequent to abundant, primarily in north of Study Area.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Shag</b>	BoCC5 Red List	5	One feeding in Sandford Bay on 31 May 2023, with 38 seen in Sandford Bay on 14 June 2023. Groups of nine, 29 and five at Scotstown Head in April, May and June 2023 respectively.	Non-breeder
<b>Shelduck</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	1	One on West Transect on 5 May 2023, plus four flights of pairs (mostly to / from ground) on North East and Ugie Transects.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder
<b>Siskin</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Two singles, including a singing male on Formartine and Buchan Way Transect in April 2023. One on North West Transect on 13 June 2023.	Unconfirmed/ likely breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
Skylark	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	95	Frequent to abundant across agricultural land within the Study Area.	Confirmed breeder
Snipe	BoCC5 Amber List	0	Five to six on West Transect on 13 April 2023.	Unconfirmed/possible breeder
Song thrush	SBL, BoCC5 Amber List	13	Occasional to frequent on all transects.	Confirmed breeder
Sparrowhawk	BoCC5 Amber List	0	Single adults recorded in flight once each south of St Fergus, in Inverugie, and at eastern end of Formartine and Buchan Way Transect.	Unconfirmed/ likely breeder
Stonechat	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Singles and pairs in dunes between Buchanhaven and St Fergus.	Confirmed breeder
Starling	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	15	Occasional to frequent on all transects. Maximum flock size of 68 birds in dunes north of Peterhead Golf Course in May 2023.	Confirmed breeder
Stock dove	BoCC5 Amber List	2	Pair in flight southeast of Lunderton on 12 April 2023. Occasional on	Confirmed breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
			Formartine and Buchan Way Transect. One record north-east of Inverugie.	
<b>Swallow</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	Occasional on all transects. Peak flock count of nine near Lunderton.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Swift</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	0	Single bird in flight on North East Transect on 16 May and 14 June 2023.	Unconfirmed/ possible breeder
<b>Teal</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	0	One calling in farmland north of Inverugie on 14 April 2023.	Unconfirmed/ possible breeder
<b>Treecreeper</b>	BoCC5 Green List	N/A	One on West Transect and three singles on the Formartine and Buchan Way Transect in April 2023.	Unconfirmed/ likely breeder
<b>Tree sparrow</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	N/A (colonial nesting) – breeding evidence present	One to three birds occasional on all transects. Four at Mountpleasant (Southern Transect) on 31 May 2023, and four at Toddlehill Cottage (West Transect) on 2 June 2023.	Confirmed breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
<b>Turnstone</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	0	Two at Scotstown Head on 14 April 2023.	Non-breeder
<b>Wheatear</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	0	One feeding at St Fergus on 5 May 2023. One towards western end of Formartine and Buchan Way Transect on 19 May 2023.	Unconfirmed/ possible breeder
<b>Whimbrel</b>	Schedule 1, BoCC5 Red List	0	One at Scotstown Head and four adjacent to Peterhead Golf Course on 26 April 2023. One in flight and two on beach adjacent to Peterhead Golf Course on 5 May 2023. Considered to be passage birds.	Non-breeder
<b>Whitethroat</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	4	Occasional across the Study Area.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Whooper swan</b>	Schedule 1, SBL, BoCC5 Amber List	0	Two in flight south of St Fergus on 12 April 2023. A single bird was heard east of Longside on two occasions on 14 April 2023. These are all likely to represent migrating or late wintering individuals.	Non-breeder

Species	Conservation Status	No. of territories in Study Area	Summary	Breeding Status within Study Area  [Confirmed breeder; Unconfirmed/likely; Unconfirmed/possible; Non-breeder]
<b>Willow warbler</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	41	Occasional to frequent, primarily on Ugie Transect.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Wood warbler</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	0	One in flight at edge of woodland, south of Longside, on 13 April 2023.	Non-breeder
<b>Woodpigeon</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	N/A (flocks) – breeding evidence present	Frequent and numerous, with up to 200 birds recorded at once (West Transect on 18 May 2023).	Confirmed breeder
<b>Wren</b>	BoCC5 Amber List	84	Frequent across the Study Area.	Confirmed breeder
<b>Yellowhammer</b>	SBL, BoCC5 Red List	56	Frequent across agricultural land within the Study Area. Peak flock size of 32 counted on West Transect in mid-April 2023, representing late wintering birds.	Confirmed breeder

Annex 1 = EU Birds Directive Annex 1, Schedule 1 = Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 1, SBL = Scottish Biodiversity List, BoCC = Birds of Conservation Concern. Not counted for feral, non-native and Green-listed species, or certain species nesting colonially or occurring in large flocks that make it hard to assign accurate territories.

## 4. Summary

### 4.1 Designated Sites

- 4.1.1.1 As identified in **Section 3.1.1** the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA lies directly adjacent to the Study Area within the intertidal environment (located at the Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) line). However, the extent of SPA that incorporates terrestrial environment (supporting onshore habitat for nesting seabirds) lies 945m to the south of the Study Area.
- 4.1.1.2 The SPA is designated for five breeding species of seabird (black-legged kittiwake, common guillemot, herring gull, European shag and northern fulmar). None of these species were recorded breeding during the breeding bird survey although herring gull was frequently recorded loafing and foraging along the coastal strip and within open fields to the north of Peterhead.
- 4.1.1.3 Bullers of Buchan Coast SSSI lies approximately 1.6km to the south of the Study Area and supports a seabird colony, including kittiwake, guillemot and European shag. None of these species were recorded breeding during the breeding bird survey.
- 4.1.1.4 Loch of Strathbeg SPA/Ramsar/SSSI designations support Sandwich tern and Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA and Ramsar support Sandwich tern, common tern and little tern. Sandwich terns were recorded in singles and groups north of Peterhead however no confirmed breeding.

### 4.2 Desk Study

- 4.2.1.1 Data received from NESBReC included 91 species, of these, 51 are considered potential breeders. Data received from the BTO typically concerns wintering species; however, of the fifteen bird species and one species group recorded, fourteen were considered possible breeders. Data received from SOC recorders and bird reports comprised 276 and 330 bird species / groups respectively. However, many of the species were vagrants recorded in small numbers and highly unlikely to breed in the Study Area.

### 4.3 Species Summary

- 4.3.1.1 A total of 44 confirmed breeding species (out of 97 recorded species) (See **Table 3.3**) were recorded within the Study Area during the 2023 breeding bird surveys; 17 unconfirmed/likely breeding species; 19 unconfirmed possibly breeding species; and 16 non-breeding species.
- 4.3.1.2 Three Schedule 1 species (which are legally protected) were recorded within the Study Area:
- Common quail - a single calling male was recorded on the Ugie Transect on 13 June 2023. Common quail is an infrequent breeding species to the North East of Scotland; however, the extensive arable farmland across the Study Area offers suitable breeding habitat for this species.
  - Common crossbill – A single bird was recorded calling within a copse at Lunderton. Common crossbill is a common resident in the North East of Scotland and an irruptive migrant.
  - Whimbrel - several records of non-breeding passage whimbrel were recorded along the coastal transects at Scotstown Head and Peterhead Golf Course in April and May 2024. The species is a common passage migrant.



- 4.3.1.3 The Study Area supports 12 Red List BoCC species and 21 Amber-listed BoCC species recorded as likely or confirmed breeders, including small populations of the following declining farmland species: lapwing (2 territories), cuckoo (1 singing male), tree sparrow (peak count of 11 birds recorded), linnet (13 territories), corn bunting (3 territories) and reed bunting (3 territories), as well as larger populations of the following species: skylark (95 territories), yellowhammer (56 territories) and meadow pipit (30 territories).
- 4.3.1.4 Assemblages of greatest diversity (which included a combination of red and amber BoCC species) were found to occur within the vicinity of the following locations:
- Ednie Cottages on the Ugie Transect – yellowhammer (BoCC Red list), linnet (BoCC Red list), greenfinch (BoCC Red list), swallow (BoCC Amber list), willow warbler (BoCC Amber list), whitethroat (BoCC Amber list) and song thrush (BoCC Amber list);
  - On the River Ugie Transect, north-east of Mount Pleasant – yellowhammer (BoCC Red list), greenfinch (BoCC Red list), willow warbler (BoCC Amber list), bullfinch (BoCC Amber list), song thrush (BoCC Amber list) and swallow (BoCC Amber list);
  - Station House and south of Easterton Cottages on the Formartine and Buchan Way Transect – linnet (BoCC Red list), corn bunting (BoCC Red list), yellowhammer (BoCC Red list), swallow (BoCC Amber list) and willow warbler (BoCC Amber list);
  - Southwest of Hillhead on the West Transect – corn bunting (BoCC Red list), yellowhammer (BoCC Red list), willow warbler (BoCC Amber list), swallow (BoCC Amber list), song thrush (BoCC Amber list) and meadow pipit (BoCC Amber list);
  - West of Inverveddie House on the West Transect – corn bunting (BoCC Red list), tree sparrow (BoCC Red list), yellowhammer (BoCC Red list), linnet (BoCC Red list), willow warbler (BoCC Amber list), whitethroat (BoCC Amber list), song thrush (BoCC Amber list) and meadow pipit (BoCC Amber list); and
  - Sandford Bay on the South Transect – greenfinch (BoCC Red list), reed bunting (BoCC Amber list), meadow pipit (BoCC Amber list), song thrush (BoCC Amber list), willow warbler (BoCC Amber list), oystercatcher (BoCC Amber list), and sedge warbler (BoCC Amber list).

## 5. References

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# Appendix A

## Survey Dates, Times, Conditions

**Table A.1 Breeding Bird Walkover Survey Dates, Times and Conditions**

Date	Transect	Timings	Surveyor	Weather Conditions
12/04/2023	North West	0640-1136	D Flenley	100% cloud cover, 6°C, light rain, Beaufort wind force 4 south
12/04/2023	North East	0723-1136	J Everett	90-100% cloud cover, 7-10°C, light rain at start, Beaufort wind force 5 south
13/04/2023	West	0608-0913 1500-1942	D Flenley D Flenley and J Everett	75% cloud cover, 7°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 2 east 65-100% cloud cover, 6-9°C, Beaufort wind force 1-2 north east to south east
13/04/2023	South	0616-1114	J Everett	60-95% cloud cover, 7-9°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 3 east to north east
14/04/2023	Ugie	0616-1018 1235-1322	D Flenley D Flenley	98% cloud cover, 7°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 1 east 75% cloud cover, 13°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 2 south
14/04/2023	Formartine and Buchan Way	0618-1015	J Everett	25-60% cloud cover, 10°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force

Date	Transect	Timings	Surveyor	Weather Conditions
				1 south to southwest
<b>25/04/2023</b>	Formartine and Buchan Way	0553-0805	J Sneddon	20% cloud cover, 2°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 2 southeast
<b>26/04/2023</b>	West	0520-0730	J Sneddon	30% cloud cover, 0°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 1 north west
<b>26/04/2023</b>	North East	0532-1047	J Everett	30% cloud cover, 0°C, light rain, Beaufort wind force 1 north west
<b>27/04/2023</b>	North West	0531-1114	J Everett	70-80% cloud cover, 1-6°C, light rain at end, Beaufort wind force 1 southeast
<b>03/05/2023</b>	West	0515-0820	J Sneddon	80% cloud cover, 4°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 1-2 north
<b>04/05/2023</b>	Formartine and Buchan Way	0515-0728	J Sneddon	100% cloud cover, 4°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 2 north
<b>05/05/2023</b>	North East	0518-1002	J Everett	80-90% cloud cover, 18°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 4 southeast
<b>06/05/2023</b>	Ugie	0509-1025	J Everett	100% cloud cover, 8°C, light rain, Beaufort wind force 2 southeast
<b>16/05/2023</b>	North East	0646-0953	J Everett	25-100% cloud cover, 9-11°C,

Date	Transect	Timings	Surveyor	Weather Conditions
				moderate rain at end, Beaufort wind force 3-4 north west
17/05/2023	Ugie	0526-0837	J Everett	80-100% cloud cover, 6-8°C, moderate rain at start, Beaufort wind force 1 south
18/05/2023	West	0430-0720	J Sneddon	100% cloud cover, 8°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 0-1 southwest
18/05/2023	North West	0514-0852	J Everett	100% cloud cover, 8-12°C, light rain at start, Beaufort wind force 1 south to southwest
19/05/2023	Formartine and Buchan Way	0558-0911	J Everett	40-70% cloud cover, 6-12°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 1 southeast to west
30/05/2023	Ugie	0456-0723	J Everett	100% cloud cover, 12°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 1 east
31/05/2023	South	0614-1237	J Everett	100% cloud cover, 10°C, light rain at end, Beaufort wind force 2-3 north
01/06/2023	Formartine and Buchan Way	0445-0645	J Sneddon	100% cloud cover, 10°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 2 east
01/06/2023	North East	0603-0836	J Everett	100% cloud cover, 8-10°C, light rain, Beaufort wind force 2-3 north west

Date	Transect	Timings	Surveyor	Weather Conditions
02/06/2023	West	0430-0700	J Sneddon	0-10% cloud cover, 6-8°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 0
13/06/2023	Ugie	0551-0945	D Priddle	75% cloud cover, 14°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 0
13/06/2023	North West	0608-0812	J Everett	60-100% cloud cover, 12-14°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 1 southeast
14/06/2023	North East	0504-0743	D Priddle	12.5% cloud cover, 13-18°C, no precipitation, Beaufort wind force 1 southeast
15/06/2023	South	0600-0933	J Everett	10% cloud cover, 15-18°C, heavy rain, Beaufort wind force 1 southeast

**Survey personnel and years of professional ornithological survey experience:**

- Daniel Flenley: 17 years
- Duncan Priddle: 26 years
- Jenny Sneddon: 15 years
- Jamie Everett: 5 years

# Appendix B

## Data Search Records

**Table B.1 Summary of NESBReC Records 2013-2022**

Species	No. of records	Potential Breeder
Arctic skua	29	No
Arctic tern	32	Yes
Barn owl	45	Yes
Barnacle goose	136	No
Bar-tailed godwit	54	No
Bean goose	44	No
Bearded tit	243	Yes
Bewick's swan	9	No
Bittern	33	No
Black-headed gull	321	Yes
Black-tailed godwit	294	No
Black-throated diver	7	No
Brambling	25	No
Brent goose	8	No
Bullfinch	110	Yes
Canada goose	53	Yes
Common scoter	24	No
Common tern	104	Yes



Species	No. of records	Potential Breeder
Cuckoo	34	Yes
Curlew	412	Yes
Dotterel	31	No
Dunlin	380	No
Dunnock	339	Yes
Eider	193	Yes
Garganey	128	Yes
Goldeneye	191	No
Goshawk	5	Yes
Grasshopper warbler	48	Yes
Great northern diver	44	No
Green sandpiper	47	No
Greenland white-fronted goose	28	No
Grey partridge	23	Yes
Grey phalarope	10	No
Greylag goose	188	Yes
Hen harrier	196	No
Herring gull	507	Yes
Hobby	5	Yes
Hooded crow	58	Yes
House sparrow	557	Yes

Species	No. of records	Potential Breeder
Kestrel	144	Yes
Kingfisher	18	Yes
Lesser redpoll	56	Yes
Linnet	353	Yes
Manx shearwater	22	No
Marsh harrier	505	Yes
Merlin	61	No
Osprey	326	Yes
Peregrine	260	Yes
Pink-footed goose	312	No
Pochard	46	Yes
Purple sandpiper	63	No
Red grouse	1	Yes
Red kite	6	No
Red-backed shrike	7	Yes
Red-necked grebe	7	No
Redshank	342	Yes
Red-throated diver	43	No
Redwing	54	No
Reed bunting	380	Yes
Reed warbler	3	Yes

Species	No. of records	Potential Breeder
Ring ouzel	1	No
Roseate tern	9	Yes
Ruff	314	Yes
Russian white-fronted goose	4	No
Sandwich tern	75	Yes
Savi's warbler	14	No
Scaup	68	No
Short-eared owl	33	Yes
Siskin	153	Yes
Skylark	481	Yes
Slavonian grebe	37	No
Smew	27	No
Snipe	276	Yes
Snow bunting	25	No
Song thrush	224	Yes
Spotted crane	4	No
Spotted flycatcher	36	Yes
Starling	539	Yes
Swift	122	Yes
Temminck's stint	7	No
Tree sparrow	406	Yes

Species	No. of records	Potential Breeder
Turtle dove	1	Yes
Twite	4	No
White-fronted goose sp.	72	No
White-tailed eagle	4	Yes
Whooper swan	298	No
Wood sandpiper	77	No
Wood warbler	1	Yes
Woodcock	40	Yes
Wryneck	2	Yes
Yellow wagtail	7	No
Yellowhammer	602	Yes

This table lists 91 species and one species group (white-fronted goose sp.). All white-fronted geese in this group would be either European or Russian white-fronted geese, both species that were recorded within the total of 91.

**Table B.2 Summary of SOC Potential Breeding Species Records 2013-2021**

Species	Minimum Total Count
Black guillemot	31
Blackbird	638
Blackcap	101
Blue tit	463
Buzzard	458
Chaffinch	507
Chiffchaff	136

Species	Minimum Total Count
Coal tit	137
Collared dove	335
Crossbill	3
Common gull	416
Common sandpiper	9
Coot	98
Cormorant	515
Corn bunting	162
Feral pigeon	432
Gadwall	166
Goldcrest	81
Goldfinch	496
Great tit	394
Greenfinch	233
Grey wagtail	17
House martin	177
Little grebe	75
Little ringed plover	17
Long-eared owl	3
Long-tailed tit	26
Magpie	309

Species	Minimum Total Count
Meadow pipit	322
Mistle thrush	23
Moorhen	135
Mute swan	451
Pheasant	330
Pied flycatcher	31
Puffin	27
Quail	8
Raven	24
Razorbill	61
Red-legged partridge	5
Robin	529
Rock pipit	226
Rook	394
Sand martin	64
Sparrowhawk	120
Stock dove	23
Stonechat	213
Swallow	463
Tawny owl	4
Treecreeper	23

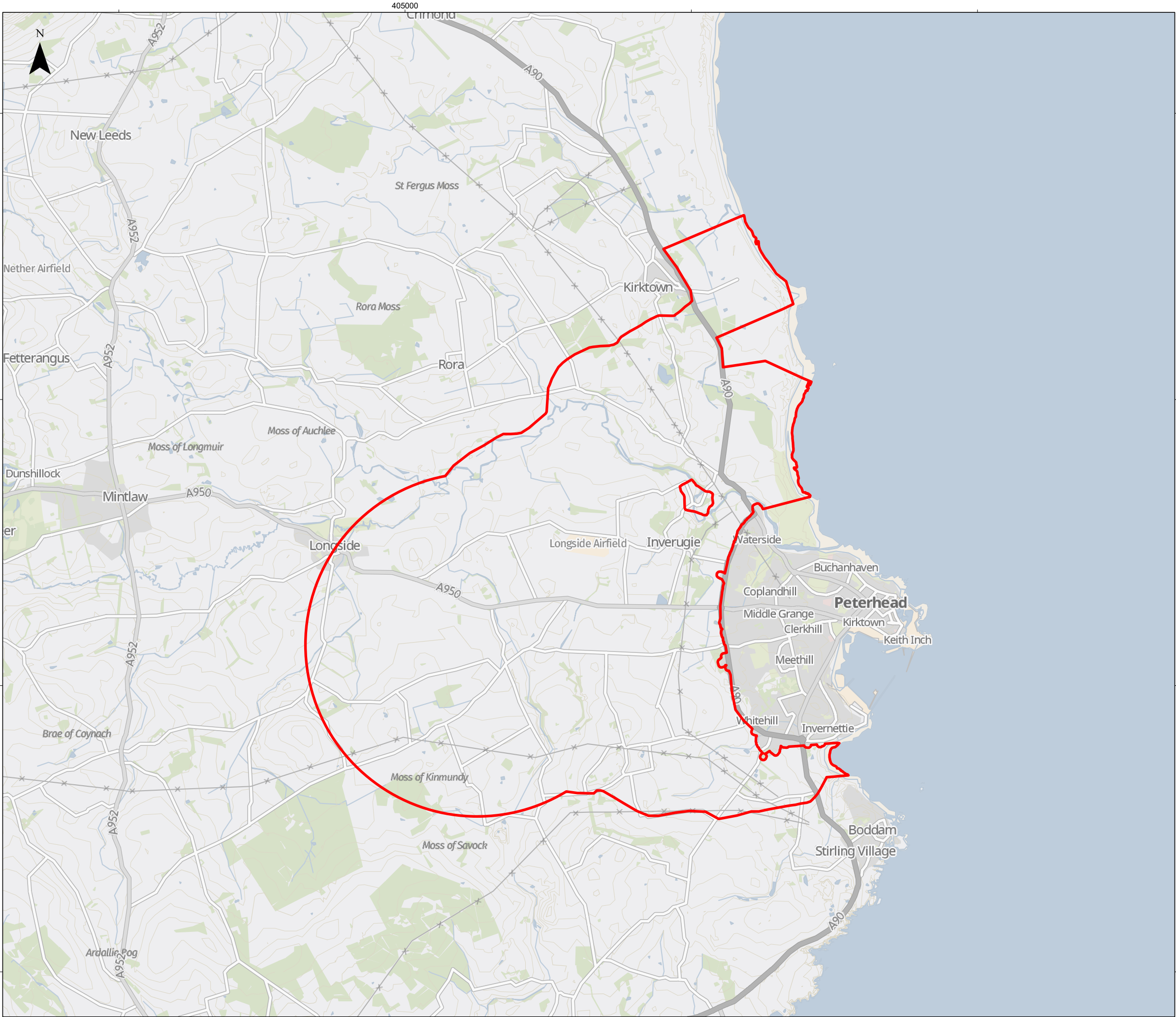
Species	Minimum Total Count
Wheatear	137
Whitethroat	146
Willow Warbler	271
Woodpigeon	604
Wren	515


Excludes species already listed in **Table 3.1** and/or **Appendix B, Table B.1**. Total count is given as a minimum as some records only refer to a species as 'present.'

# Appendix C

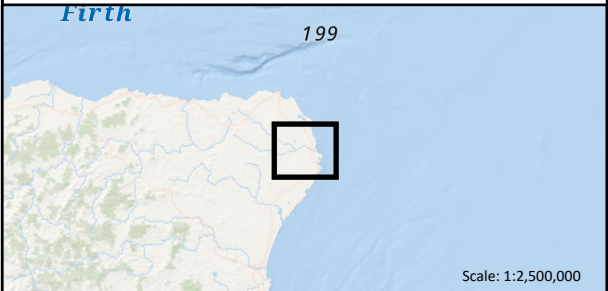
## Figures





 Study area

0 2.5  
Kilometres



3	10/04/2024	SS	LT	AM	MW
2	02/02/2024	SS	LT	AM	MW
1	05/12/2023	SS	LT	AM	MW
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MarramWind DRAWING NUMBER MAR-GEN-ENV-REP-WSP-000001

DATUM OSGB 1936 PROJECTION British National Grid

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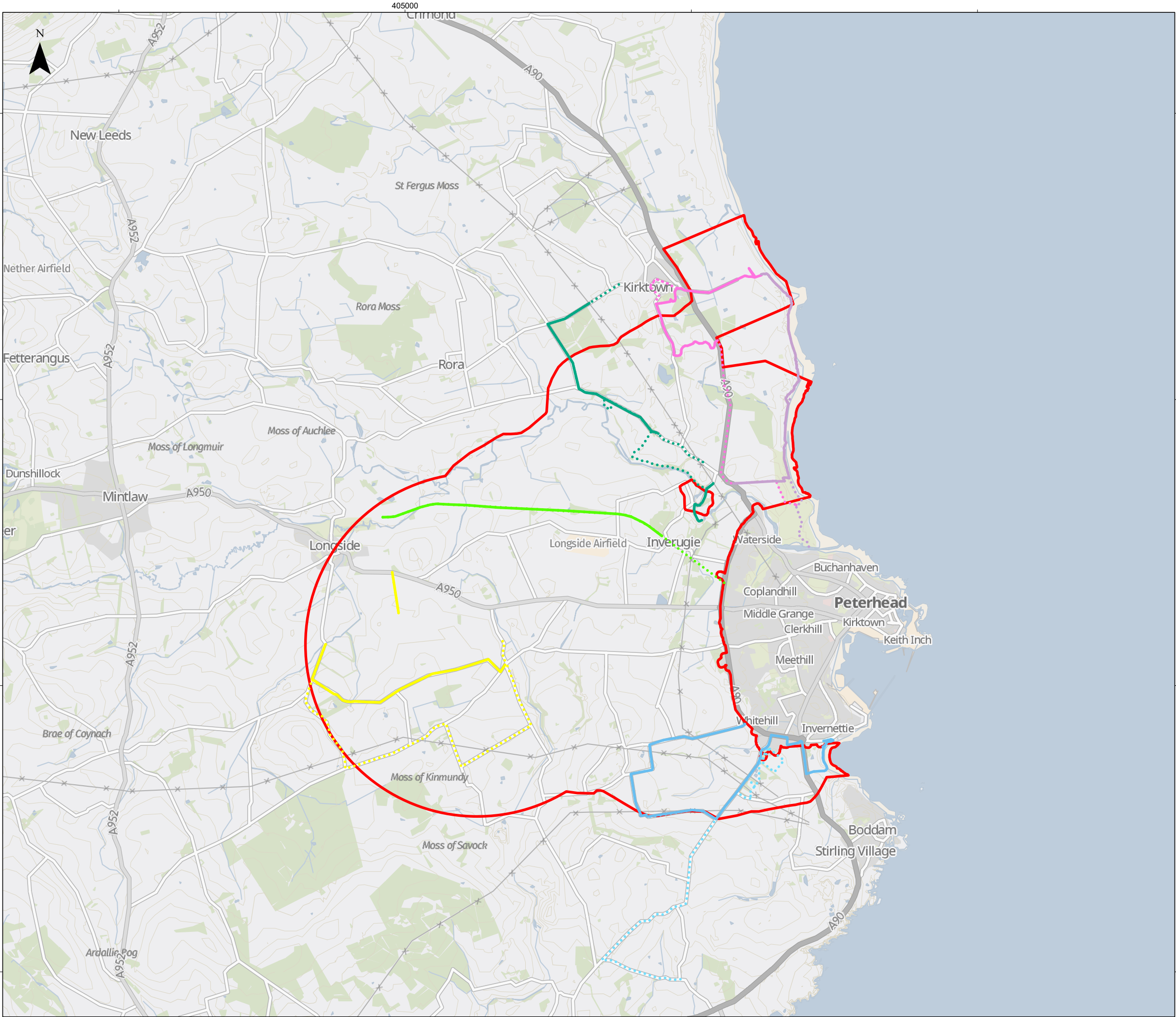
DRAWING TITLE  
Figure 1 Study area  
Environmental Impact Assessment Report  
Appendix 23.4

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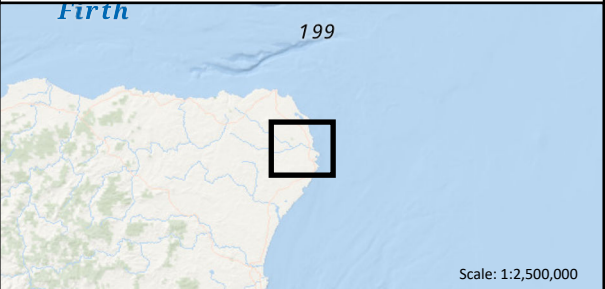
Study area

**May and June 2023 Transects**

- North East Transect
- North West Transect
- Ugie Transect
- Formartine to Buchan Transect
- West Transect
- South Transect

**Transect routes only used during April 2023**

- North East Transect
- North West Transect
- Ugie Transect
- Formartine to Buchan Transect
- West Transect
- South Transect



3	10/04/2024	SS	LT	AM	MW
2	02/02/2024	SS	LT	AM	MW
1	05/12/2023	SS	LT	AM	MW
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MarramWind DRAWING NUMBER MAR-GEN-ENV-REP-WSP-000001

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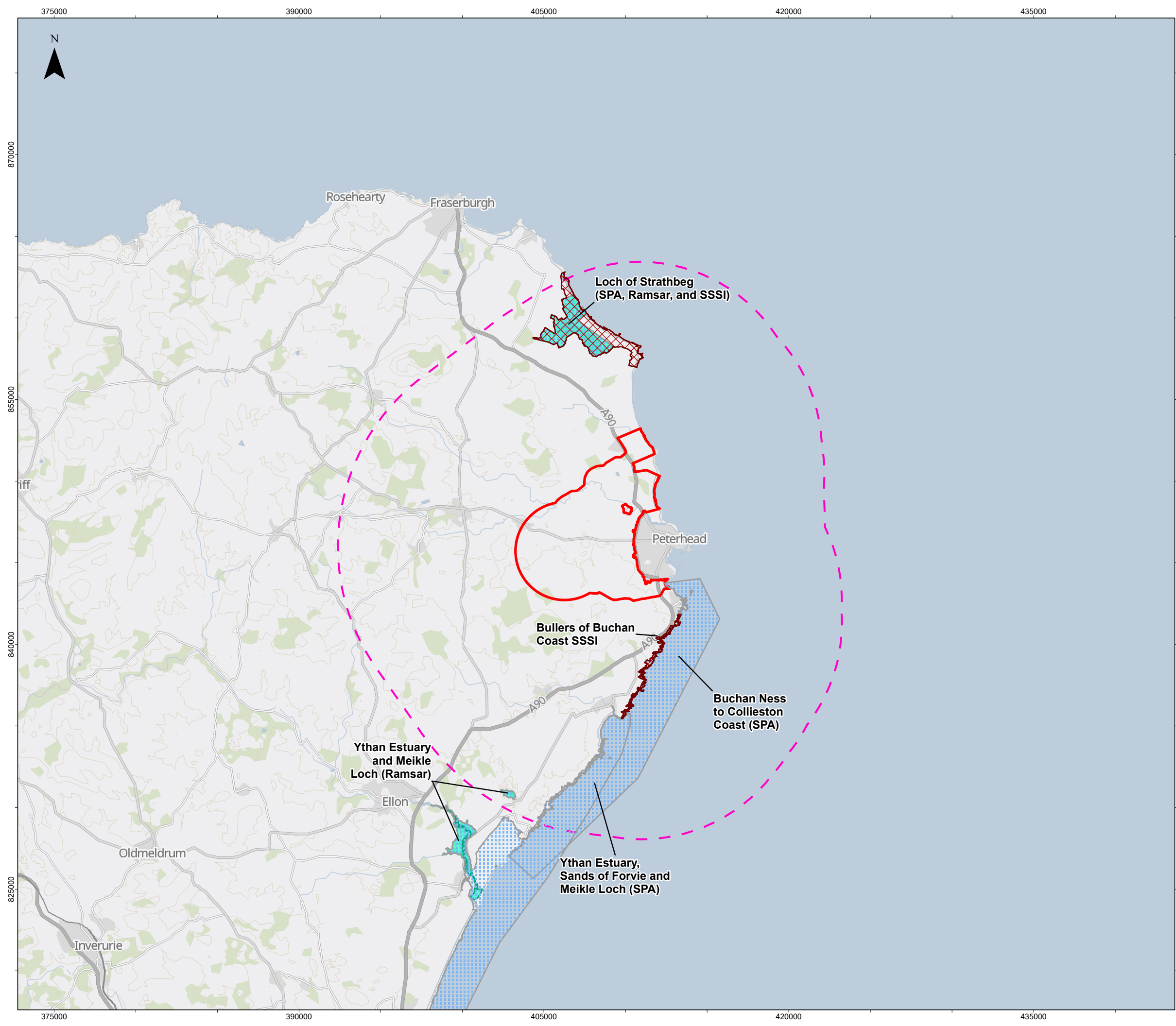
PROJECT TITLE  
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DRAWING TITLE  
Figure 2 Breeding bird survey transects  
Environmental Impact Assessment Report  
Appendix 23.4

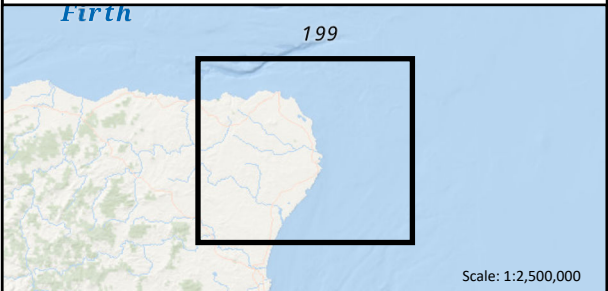
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- Study area
- 10km Buffer Search for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Ramsar Site
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- SSSI



3	10/04/2024	SS	LT	AM	MW
2	02/02/2024	SS	LT	AM	MW
1	05/12/2023	SS	LT	AM	MW
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MarramWind DRAWING NUMBER MAR-GEN-ENV-REP-WSP-000001

DATUM OSGB 1936 PROJECTION British National Grid

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PROJECT TITLE  
MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm

DRAWING TITLE  
Figure 3 Designated ornithology sites  
Environmental Impact Assessment Report  
Appendix 23.4

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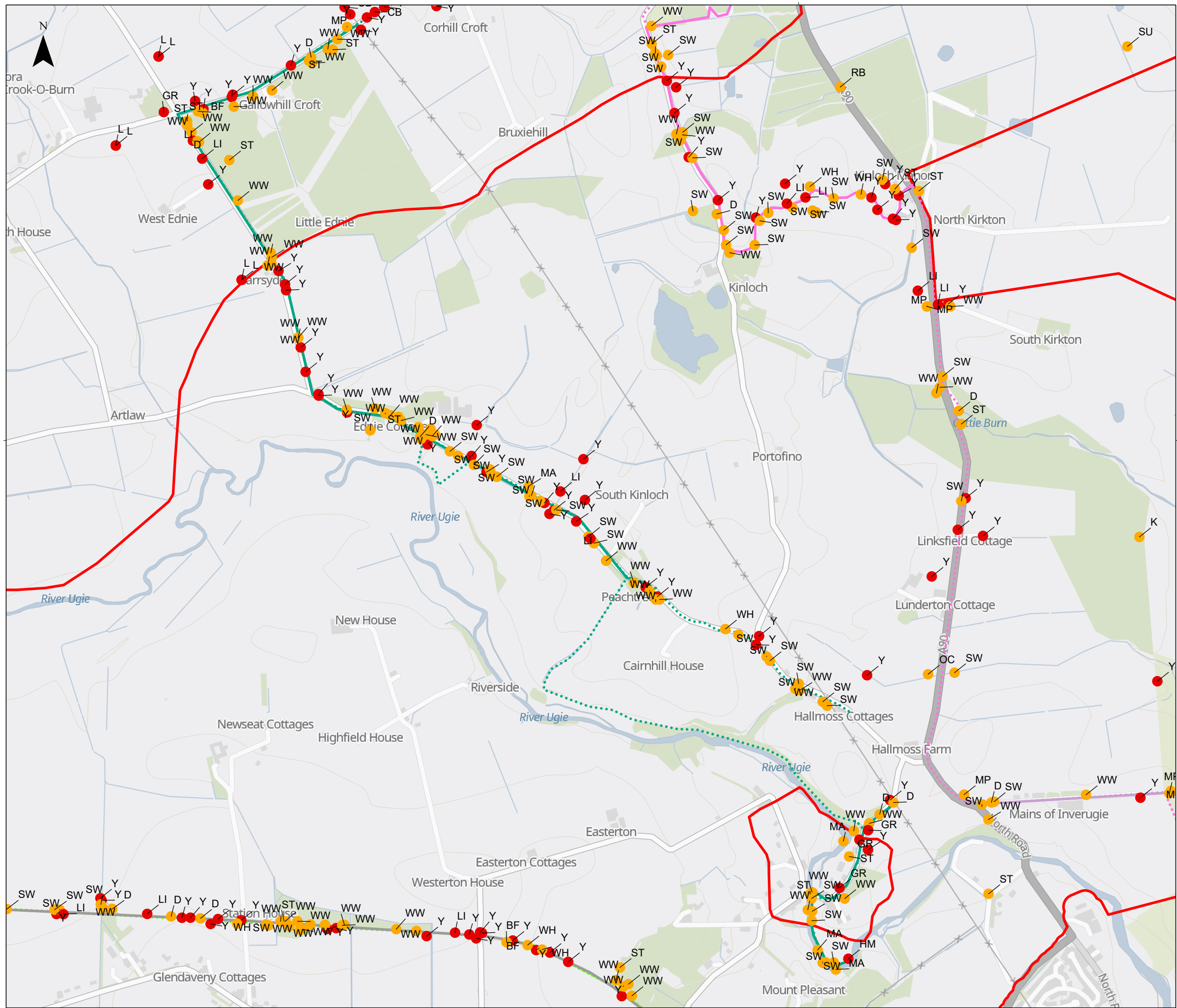












- Study area**
- May and June 2023 Transects**
- North East Transect
  - North West Transect
  - Ugie Transect
  - Formartine to Buchan Transect
- Transect routes only used during April 2023**
- North West Transect
  - Fontmartine & Buchan Way Transect
  - Ugie Transect
- Breeding Bird Territory Centre Conservation Status**
- Amber List
  - Red List
- Bird Species List:**
- D, Dunnock, Amber List (11)
  - GR, Greenfinch, Red List (4)
  - HM, House Martin, Red List (1)
  - K, Kestrel, Amber List (1)
  - L, Lapwing, Red List (6)
  - LI, Linnet, Red List (11)
  - MA, Mallard, Amber List (4)
  - MP, Meadow Pipit, Amber List (6)
  - OC, Oystercatcher, Amber List (1)
  - RB, Reed bunting, Amber List (1)
  - ST, Song thrush, Amber List (17)
  - SU, Shelduck, Amber List (1)
  - SW, Sedge Warbler, Amber List (56)
  - WH, Whitethroat, Amber List (6)
  - WW, Willow Warbler, Amber List (65)
  - Y, Yellowhammer, Red List (76)
  - BF, Bullfinch, Amber List (4)
  - CB, Corn bunting, Red List (2)

0 0.5 Kilometres



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2	02/02/2024	SS	LT	AM	MW
1	05/12/2023	SS	LT	AM	MW
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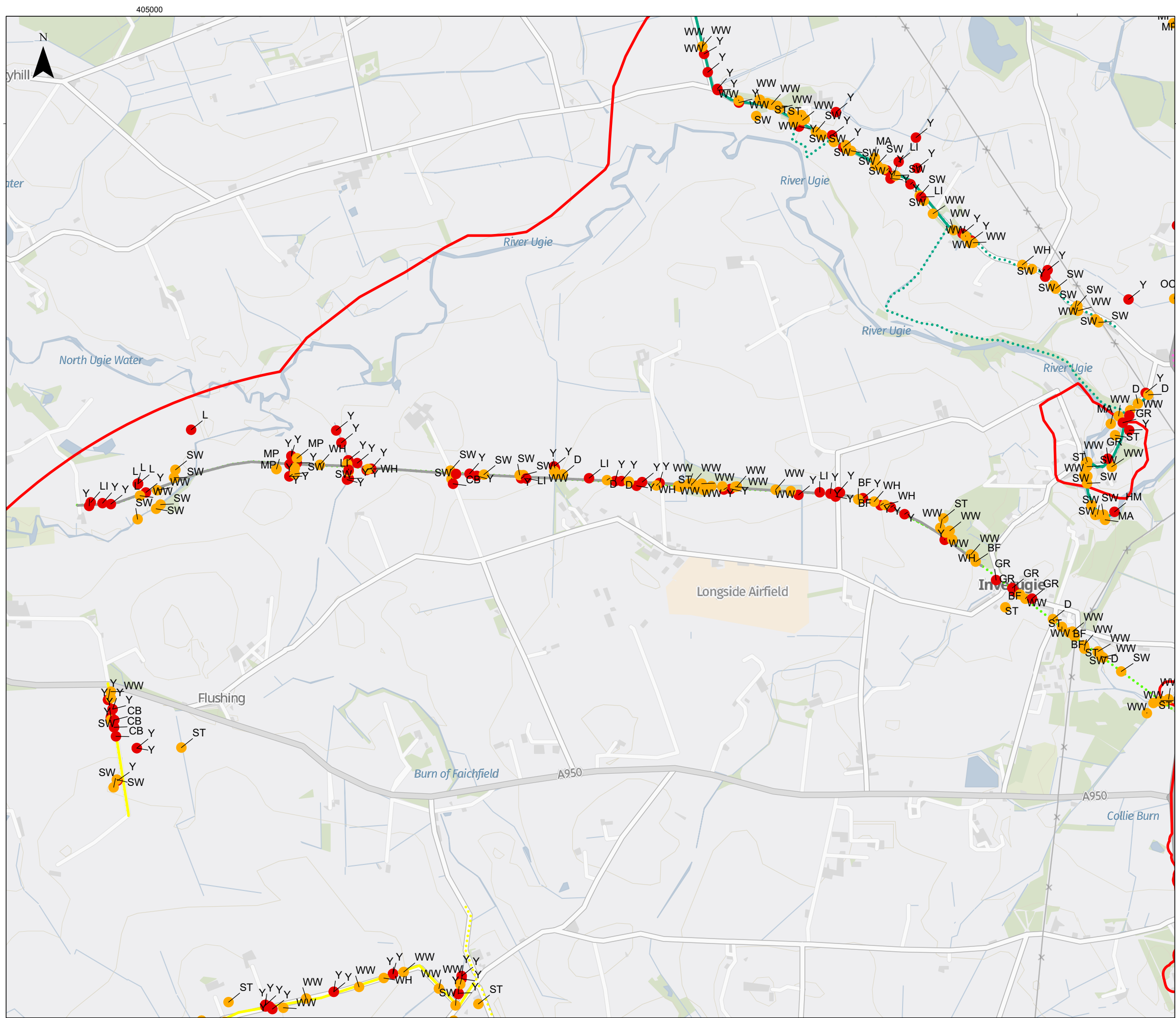
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DRAWING TITLE Figure 6 Breeding territories on Ugie transect  
Environmental Impact Assessment Report  
Appendix 23.4

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Study area

May and June 2023 Transects

Ugie Transect

Formartine to Buchan Transect

Western Transects

Transect routes only used during April 2023

North West Transect

Formartine & Buchan Way Transect

Ugie Transect

Western Transect Revision

Breeding Bird Territory Centre Conservation Status

Amber List

Red List

BF, Bullfinch, Amber List (8)

CB, Corn bunting, Red List (5)

D, Dunnock, Amber List (9)

GR, Greenfinch, Red List (7)

HM, House Martin, Red List (1)

L, Lapwing, Red List (15)

LI, Linnet, Red List (7)

MA, Mallard, Amber List (4)

MP, Meadow Pipit, Amber List (7)

OC, Oystercatcher, Amber List (1)

ST, Song thrush, Amber List (16)

SW, Sedge Warbler, Amber List (49)

WH, Whitethroat, Amber List (8)

WW, Willow Warbler, Amber List (62)

Y, Yellowhammer, Red List (87)

0

0.5

1

Kilometres

Fraserburgh

Peterhead

Scale: 1:1,000,000

3	10/04/2024	SS	LT	AM	MW
2	02/02/2024	SS	LT	AM	MW
1	05/12/2023	SS	LT	AM	MW
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MarramWind DRAWING NUMBER

MAR-GEN-ENV-REP-WSP-000001

DATUM	OSGB 1936	PROJECTION	British National Grid
SCALE	1:20,000	PAGE SIZE	A3

PROJECT TITLE

MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 7 Breeding territories on Formartine and Buchan Way transect

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

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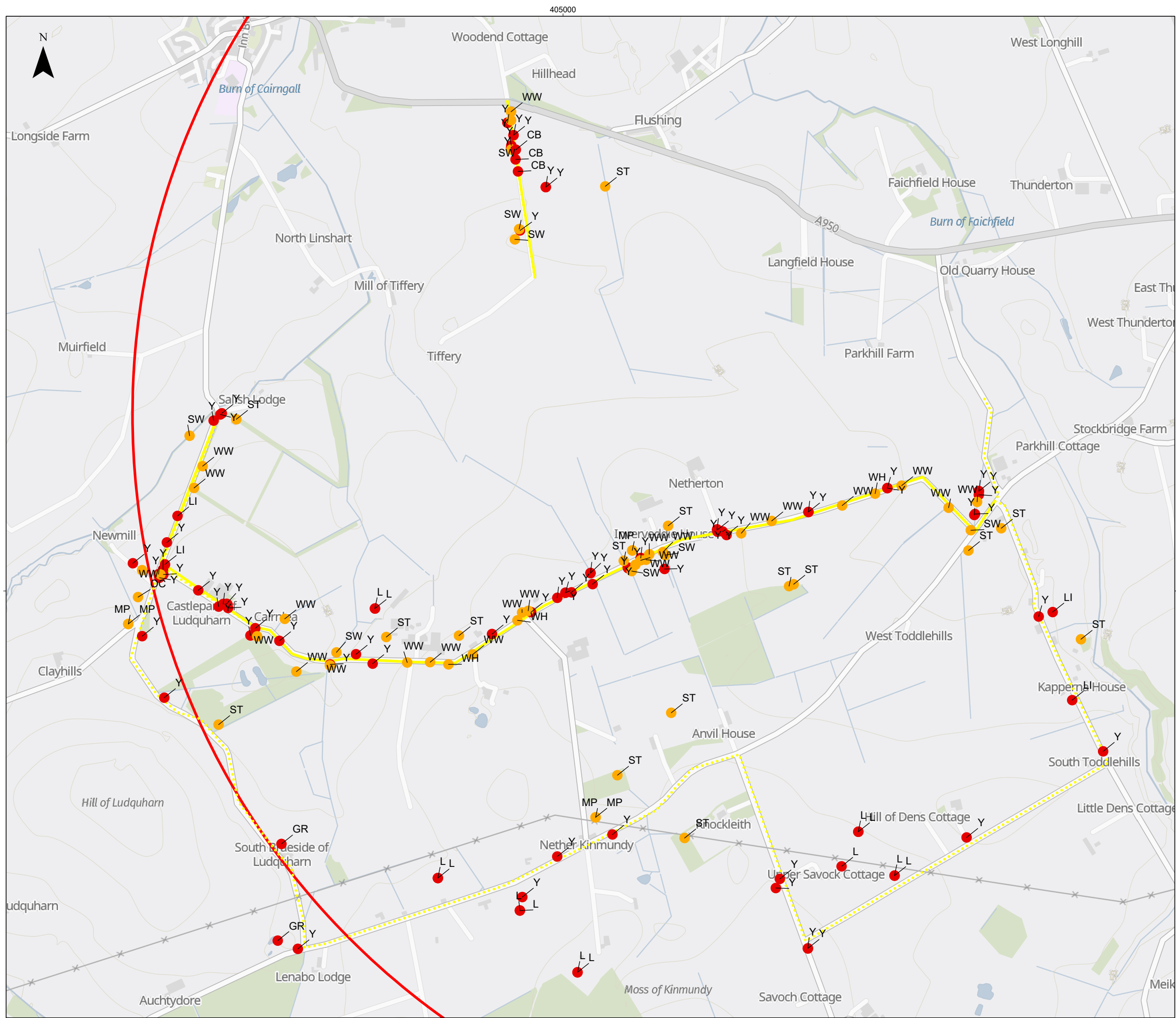
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wsp

MarramWind





Study area

May and June 2023 Transects

Western Transects

Transect routes only used during April 2023

Western Transect Revision

Breeding Bird Territory Centre Conservation Status

Amber List

Red List

CB, Corn bunting, Red List (3)

GR, Greenfinch, Red List (2)

L,Lapwing,Red List (13)

LI, Linnet, Red List (4)

MP, Meadow Pipit, Amber List (6)

OC, Oystercatcher, Amber List (1)

ST, Song thrush, Amber List (15)



SW, Sedge Warbler, Amber List (9)

WH, Whitethroat, Amber List (3)

WW, Willow Warbler, Amber List (25)

Y, Yellowhammer, Red List (72)



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PROJECT TITLE					
MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm					
DRAWING TITLE					
Figure 8 Breeding territories on west transect					
Environmental Impact Assessment Report					
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