

15th May 2023  
Our reference: 2022/07/09

**Interim report on a survey of the bird community of the site at 51-53 Sandwich Road, Ash, near Sandwich, Kent**

This is a summary of the breeding bird survey work which is being conducted at the site by Martin Sutherland on behalf of KB Ecology. The survey includes both a Turtle Dove survey and a general breeding bird survey.

**General breeding bird survey**

For the general breeding bird survey the whole area is being walked starting around sunrise and all birds heard and seen are mapped on individual visit maps. There will be four visits spaced evenly through the survey period which will extend to the first half of July.

**Turtle Dove survey**

The Turtle Dove monitoring survey requires a minimum of two visits. The first should be conducted between 11th May and 20th June, the second between 21st June and 31st July allowing four weeks between each of the two visits. Surveys should be undertaken between dawn and 0900 as TD activity reduces considerably after this time with birds foraging in the wider countryside and other factors.

As with the General BBS, each bird and its behaviour is mapped on each visit, a separate map being used on each.

These two surveys run concurrently.

Two survey visits, including the first Turtle Dove survey, have so far been conducted as follows:

- 20th April, 2023
- 12th May 2023

In addition, an automated sound recorder positioned near the northern end of the buildings on the site has collected five nights of data. This has not yet been analysed but a search of the buildings for signs of barn owl presence have been conducted and none has been found.

**Findings so far**

As the site has been largely cleared of vegetation, except for fringing hedgerows and trees and scattered small trees within the site, it is not currently particularly attractive to birds and a rather low total of just 20 species has been recorded. These are shown in the table.

Table 1 Full list of bird species recorded in the survey area on the two visits so far conducted. Birds of Conservation Concern Red List and Amber List species are indicated by the respective colours.

	Species	Site	Adjacent
	Stock Dove		+
	Woodpigeon	+	
	Turtle Dove		+
	Collared Dove	+	
	Jay	+	
	Magpie	+	
	Jackdaw	+	
	Carrion Crow	+	
	Blue Tit	+	
	Great Tit	+	
	Whitethroat	+	
	Wren	+	
	Starling	+	
	Song Thrush	+	
	Blackbird	+	
	Robin	+	
	House Sparrow	+	
	Dunnock	+	
	Chaffinch		+
	Linnet	+	
	Goldfinch	+	
	Yellowhammer		+

### Birds of conservation importance

Species considered to be of conservation importance are those included in Schedule One of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA), and the Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC) Red and Amber lists (Stanbury A et al (2021).

No Schedule One species has been recorded but the table shows the presence of within the site of three species which are included in the Birds of Conservation Concern Red List (Starling, House Sparrow and Linnet) and five species which are Amber-listed (Woodpigeon, Whitethroat, Wren, Song Thrush and Dunnock).

All these species are nesting within or holding a nesting one or more nesting territories which includes the site.

Two further Red List species have been noted outside the site: a Yellowhammer holding territory to the north of Sandwich Road and a Turtle Dove as follows:

**Turtle Dove**

On the second survey visit (12th May) a singing Turtle Dove was noted 350m WSW of the site by Coombe Lane.

The third and fourth survey visits are scheduled to be conducted on approximately 6th June and 10th July.