

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 9.3: ORNITHOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 In May and Jun 2015, breeding bird survey work was carried out by Parsons Brinkerhoff in association with the proposed A487 Caernarfon and Bontnewydd Bypass scheme. This data is also being used to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment for proposed works at the Seiont Quarry Site, proposed for use as a construction compound for the Caernarfon Bypass.
- 1.1.2 This report provides the results of the 2015 breeding bird surveys carried out by PB insofar as they are relevant to the Seiont Quarry Site, and provides the technical appendix to Chapter 8 of the Environmental Statement for the proposed works at the Site.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 Surveys for breeding birds were carried out by Parsons Brinkerhoff for the A487 Caernarfon and Bontnewydd Bypass scheme in 2015. These surveys were conducted in line with the methods used in the British Trust for Ornithology's Breeding Bird Survey. Visits were timed so that the first was in the early part of the breeding season (April to mid-May) and the second at least four weeks later (mid-May to the end of June). These surveys covered a large part of the Seiont Quarry Site area, with surveys being carried out on the 1st May and the 16th June 2015.
- 3.1.2 Whilst the bird survey data does not cover the whole of the Site, with a noticeable lack of data for the western half of the Site, the survey did cover a wide area around the Site. For example, whilst the section of the River Seiont that flows past the Site was not surveyed, the areas upstream and downstream of the site were surveyed. This survey provided records for dipper and grey wagtail, which it is assumed will also use the section of the river adjacent to the Site. The eastern half of the quarry area was included in the survey, and as habitats are very similar in the western half of the site, it is assumed that results would be similar. Therefore, whilst the Site was not completely covered by the breeding bird surveys, the data provided for the area which was surveyed, along with the extensive coverage of the adjacent land, is considered to provide sufficient information for this assessment.

3 SURVEY RESULTS

- 3.1.1 These surveys recorded a total of 17 bird species on the Site. Figure 8.3 shows the survey results and a full species list is provided in Appendix A. Two Welsh Species of Principal Importance¹ were recorded as being present on the Site: herring gull *Larus*

¹ Through inclusion in the list generated in accordance with Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006.

argentatus (recorded present on the quarry lake) and song thrush *Turdus philomelos* (recorded as present in two locations on Site). Several other Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) were also present on the Site. Amber listed species recorded included: lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, swallow *Hirundo rustica* and tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*.

- 3.2.2 In addition, a total of 35 species were present within the 500m buffer of the Site boundary. These included the Welsh Species of Principal Importance bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhulam*, dunnock *Prunella modularis* and house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, the BoCC red listed grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (present on the River Seiont 1.7km upstream from the Site) and mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*, and the BoCC amber listed common whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, dipper *Cinclus cinclus* (present on the River Seiont 1.7km upstream from the Site) and willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

APPENDIX B: Breeding Bird Survey Species List

Species recorded on the Site.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Confirmed breeder	Probable breeder	Possible breeder	Present (not breeding)	Annex 1/ Schedule 1	Welsh Priority Species	BOCC
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				1	No		
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				1	No		
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				1	No		
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		1			No		
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>				1	No	Yes	Red
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				2	No		
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				1	No		
Lesser Black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				1	No		Amber
Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			1		No		
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>				2	No		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				1	No		Amber
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				1	No		
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				1	No	Yes	Red
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				1	No		
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			1		No		
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				1	No		Amber
Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				1	No		Amber

Species recorded within the 500m buffer of the Site boundary.

Species	Scientific Name	Confirmed breeder	Probable breeder	Possible breeder	Present (not breeding)	Annex 1/ Schedule 1	Welsh Priority Species	BOCC
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	1	7	15	13	No		
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		3	11		No		
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1		9	12	No		
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			1		No	Yes	Amber
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				4	No		
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		6	15	8	No		
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1	6	5	6	No		
Collared	<i>Streptopelia</i>			2		No		

dove	<i>decaocto</i>							
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		1	3	3	No	Yes	Amber
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			3	4	No		
Great Spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				3	No		
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>			6	10	No		
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>			1	1	No		
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				1	No		
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>				1	No	Yes	Red
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			3	3	No	Yes	Red
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				10	No		
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				3	No		
Lesser Black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				1	No		Amber
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				1	No		
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			2	11	No		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				5	No		Amber
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			1	5	No		Red
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				2	No		
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				1	No		
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1	5	14	5	No		
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				3	No		
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2	3	3	No	Yes	Red
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				11	No		Amber
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				1	No		
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>				2	No		
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			1		No		Amber
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		3	8	1	No		Amber
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			1	12	No		
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		8	26		No		