

Appendix 2: Survey Guidance and Useful Contacts

Bird Survey 'Rules of Thumb'

Provided are some basic procedures that should be carried out when conducting breeding and wintering bird surveys. It is important that consultants have addressed the following:

- Before commencing surveys, it is important desk-top searches are carried out first in order to find out if records already exist and information on designated sites. See below for reliable sources of records. NB: by itself, the NBN Gateway is not a sufficient source of information; records should be sought from Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre (NBGRC).
- **Breeding bird surveys** should be conducted for nightjars and woodlarks, and **wintering bird surveys** done for woodlarks.
 - Breeding survey methodology should follow that laid out for the relevant species (Gilbert et al).
 - Wintering bird surveys for woodlarks should comprise a minimum of three visits to all suitable areas of habitat in the period November-February. In all other respects follow the generic Common Birds Census (CBC) methodology (e.g. Gilbert et al).
- For specialised surveys required in relation to some specific forms of development (e.g. collision risk assessments for wind farms) please consult with Natural England and other nature conservation bodies at an early stage. Also see Natural England's Standing Advice (see below).
- Conduct Phase 1 habitats surveys. Please see Appendix 1 for more information on species requirements.

Useful Contacts

SINC and historic Phase 1 survey data	Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre (NBGRC): http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1047 NBGRC Ecologists: 0115 8762192; nbgrcg@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Bird Records	Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers: http://www.nottsbirders.net/ . Andy Hall (County Recorder), andy.h11@ntlworld.com Birklands Ringing Group: Mb- 07884431582. They have additional records of sensitive species vulnerable to theft or disturbance.
Information on Important Bird Areas and other information on Nightjar and Woodlark ecology	Carl Cornish (RSPB Conservation Officer), Carl.Cornish@rspb.org.uk Andrew Lowe (Birklands Ringing Group), Mb- 07884431582, alowe@nottswt.co.uk
Planning advice, legislation guidance and updates on status of SPA	Natural England: Rachel Hoskin (Ashfield, Mansfield and Bolsover Planning Advisor), 0300 060 2343/ 07775 027714, rachel.hoskin@naturalengland.org.uk Steve Clifton (Lead SSSI Designations Adviser), 0300 060 0908, steven.clifton@naturalengland.org.uk
Design advice	Natural England (see above) RSPB (see above) Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust: Andrew Lowe (West Nottinghamshire Conservation Officer), 0115 958 8242/ 07884431582, ALowe@nottswt.co.uk

References: Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D. W., and Evans, J. (1998). *Bird Monitoring Methods – a manual of techniques for key UK species*. RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

Natural England Standing advice on breeding bird species:

www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Breeding%20Birds%20feb11_tcm6-21703.pdf